



## **Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area**

# **Volume III**

## **Goals, Objectives, Policies and Implementation**

### ***Public Hearing Draft Revised*** **Coastal Management Plan**

*Prepared by The Stadum Group, July 2003*

**Revised by**



**LaRoche + Associates**

**February 2005**



*This report is funded by the Alaska Coastal Management Program, Department of Natural Resources, Pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA970Z2058. The preparation of this report is funded by a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and administered by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management and Permitting, and the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Community Advocacy. The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or any of its sub-agencies.*

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## Acknowledgements

The revision of the Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA) coastal management plan was originally prepared by The Stadum Group of Anchorage Alaska. In 2003 the project was put on hold, pending revisions to the Alaska Coastal Management Program. In 2004 LaRoche+Associates was hired to further revise the AWCRSA coastal management plan to conform to the new laws that govern the Alaska Coastal Management Program. Both LaRoche+Associates and the Stadum Group would like to recognize the AWCRSA Board and Program Director Karol Kolehmainen for outstanding guidance and management of this revision. In addition, the AWCRSA Board and Program Director provided significant information and data, along with a careful review of all materials.

The AWCRSA Board and staff, LaRoche+Associates and the Stadum Group would also like to thank the communities of Adak, Atka, Nikolski, and Unalaska for their contribution and support. Thanks to Atka, Nikolski, and Unalaska for their hospitality during visits to their communities. Thanks to the City of Unalaska Planning staff for their contribution and volunteer hours.

Thanks to the State of Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development and Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management and Permitting staffs for their guidance and assistance.

Thanks to Research Planning, Inc. for the information gathered and the development of the maps in Volume I of this document. Thanks to John Whitney with NOAA for setting the stage to produce these maps.



# Introduction

The Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA) was established in the unorganized borough in the Western Aleutians in 1987. It is governed by a seven-member elected citizen board with representatives from communities in the area. The AWCRSA is one of 35 coastal districts in Alaska that participate in Alaska's Coastal Management Program (ACMP), which was established in 1977, following the passage of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act in 1972.

The mission of Alaska's Coastal Management Plan is to "provide stewardship for Alaska's rich and diverse coastal resources to ensure a healthy and vibrant Alaskan coast that efficiently sustains long-term economic and environmental productivity."

The first AWCRSA coastal management plan was produced in three volumes in the early 1990's: Volume I, *The Resource Inventory Atlas*; Volume II, *The Resource Inventory and Resource Analysis*; and Volume III, *Coastal Management Plan*. In the fall of 1999 the AWCRSA undertook a scoping process. The Stadum Group of Anchorage, Alaska was hired as the contractor to work with the AWCRSA staff and Board to develop the scoping report. The 1990-91 AWCRSA plan was viewed generally as a well-designed plan that provided guidance in coastal management for the Western Aleutians for the past 10 years. There was consensus, however, that the plan was due for an update.

In the fall of 2000, the AWCRSA contracted The Stadum Group to update the plan, beginning with *The Resource Inventory Atlas* and *The Resource Inventory and Analysis*. Research Planning, Inc. of Columbia, South Carolina was contracted to revise *The Resource Inventory Atlas*. The revision of the atlas was a joint project with the Prince William Sound Oil Spill Recovery Institute to produce Environmental Sensitivity Index maps for the Western and Eastern Aleutians.

Community meetings were held in Atka, Nikolski, and Unalaska to kick off the revision process in the fall of 2000. Revision work continued throughout 2001, 2002, and the spring of 2003. The AWCRSA Board met on a regular basis throughout the coastal management plan revision process. In addition, the Board held numerous teleconference work sessions to review the draft updated sections of the plan in detail. Additional community meetings were held during the development of the draft. The Public Hearing Draft was produced in August 2002, and formal comments solicited. The Revised Public Hearing Draft was produced in May of 2003, along with a response to all comments. Final edits to the Revised PHD were made in July 2003, and the plan was accepted by a resolution of the AWCRSA Board. Further review, revisions, and State of Alaska approval are pending due to a reorganization of the Alaska Coastal Management Program in 2003 and pending regulation changes.

The planning process resumed in July 2004, commencing with the required evaluation of the 2003 Public Hearing Draft. The evaluation indicated that most policies would have to be revised and coastal resources would have to be designated. Subsequently, significant revisions were made to Chapter 3: Policies to comply with the new statutory and regulatory requirements.

The AWCRSA Coastal Management Plan (Revised Public Hearing Draft, February 2005) contains three volumes. Volume I is the *Coastal Resources Inventory and Environmental Sensitivity Maps*. Volume II is the *Resource Inventory and Analysis* and Volume III is the *Goals, Objectives, Policies and Implementation*.

Volume III, *Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Implementation*, is organized into six chapters:

- Chapter 1: Issues, Goals, and Objectives
- Chapter 2: Coastal Boundary
- Chapter 3: Policies
- Chapter 4: Organization of the AWCRSA
- Chapter 5: Implementation
- Chapter 6: Special Area Planning
- Chapter 7: Public Participation

# 1.0 Issues, Goals, And Objectives

## Introduction

The history of the Western Aleutian Islands is one of natural and manmade change. Traditionally, the lives of the people have been directly tied to the fish and wildlife resources of the region, originally through subsistence, and later through the commercial harvest of marine fish and wildlife. The well-being of the people of the region and the economy have often reflected the ups and downs of the health and populations of fish and wildlife stocks. This variability in natural conditions is evidenced through archaeological investigations, and through more recent events such as the decline in king crab stocks and rapid expansion of the ground fish industry. Fish and wildlife resources dependent on coastal habitats are not limitless, and their status and productivity can be affected by natural conditions and human activities. Residents of the AWCRSA appreciate the rugged beauty of the environment and its resources, and they recognize that their activities can impact the quality of the environment around them.

The strategic location and commercial value of the region and its resources have played major historical roles in regional change ... first with Russian discovery and exploitation of the Aleutians, and followed by American interests in marine mammals and fisheries resources. The Japanese have long used the resources of the region and in WW II recognized the strategic location of the Western Aleutians. The American military increased its presence in response to the Japanese and later to the Cold War threat of the Russians. This strategic location is reflected today in the development of the western Aleutians as a regional transportation hub and a potential location for specialized military operations.

Change is an ever-present factor in the management, harvest, and use of coastal resources. Historically, sea otters and fur seals were key resources of interest. In recent times, significant changes have occurred in commercial fishing activities, most notably joint-ventures, to a predominantly American harvest. Residents and their communities have responded to these changes by successfully initiating economic development activities that use the region's maritime location and marine resources.

In response to change and economic opportunities, local residents desire increased power in decisions that affect their lives. Coastal management presents an opportunity to increase the local role in resource management, development planning, and decision-making.

Development of the AWCRSA coastal management program must consider the region's history, the natural environment, and tradition of change. The program must also balance economic development and utilization of natural resources with maintenance of coastal habitats, fish and wildlife resources, and environmental quality. As development activities and demands for coastal resources increase, the coastal management program must recognize the potential effects of cumulative impacts, particularly on water quality and on important coastal habitats. In some instances, competing demands for resources may require a mitigation process approach to achieve an acceptable level of balance between development activities and resource protection.



The overall goals and objectives of the AWCRSA coastal program provide guidance for sound development and uses of coastal resources while ensuring wise management of resources, compliance with environmental protection criteria, and the maintenance of important habitats.

This chapter outlines the Issues, Goals, and Objectives of the AWCRSA coastal management program within the framework of the Alaska Coastal Management Program.

## **What Are Issues, Goals, and Objectives?**

Issues are matters, problems, concerns, or challenges that the AWCRSA faces in managing its coastal resources and the uses of those resources. Local residents of AWCRSA communities have identified those issues that are appropriate for the coastal management program to address. Within the AWCRSA coastal management program, some issues may be region-wide; others may be of concern only to specific communities within the AWCRSA. Many of issues, goals, and objectives relate to either one of the statewide Standards or district planning requirements for coastal management in 11 AAC 112 and 11 AAC 112:

- Coastal development
- Natural hazard areas
- Recreation and tourism
- Energy facilities
- Transportation, coastal access and utilities
- Fish and seafood processing
- Timber harvest and processing
- Sand and gravel extraction
- Subsistence
- Coastal habitats
- Air, land and water quality
- Historic, prehistoric, and archaeological resources

Goals are the AWCRSA's general aims, that is, the desired achievements of its overall coastal management strategy. They are the results that the residents of the AWCRSA wish to achieve. Goals are relatively broad statements that provide directions for the balanced use of resources and actions by residents of the AWCRSA, local, state and federal agencies, and private industry.

Objectives are specific actions that can be taken to achieve a goal. The policies of the coastal management program provide direction for resource management and development in the AWCRSA. Policies are specific rules placed on resource management/resource development activities to achieve those objectives. The policies in Chapter 4 provide further guidance and detail in addressing the Issues, Goals, and Objectives identified in this chapter.

## **Purpose**

The Issues, Goals, and Objectives Chapter has several purposes. First, Alaska Coastal Management Program regulations require that the district coastal management program include a statement of the overall management issues and needs, objectives, and goals. Unlike the policies in Chapter 4.0, the issues, goals, and objectives are not "enforceable". They are not used to evaluate a proposed activity to determine whether or not it is consistent with the

AWCRSA coastal management program. There is no requirement for compliance with specific issues, goals, and objectives. These goals and objectives, however, provide the foundation for the plan, particularly the coastal policies, and are supported by the Resource Inventory and Resource Analysis information presented in Volume 2 of the plan. The categorical grouping of Issues, Goals, and Objectives in this chapter follows the Statewide standards and requirements for district plans.

More importantly, the Issues, Goals, and Objectives set forth the needs and desires of the residents of the AWCRSA. They help to establish the tone and direction of the coastal management program. Elements addressed include economic development; commercial fishing and seafood processing; transportation and improved access; subsistence and personal use of fish and wildlife resources; recreation and tourism; mining, and geothermal and hydroelectric development.

Coastal management is just one of several means available to local residents to address regional needs and to achieve their goals and objectives; other methods include local zoning ordinances and comprehensive plans. The AWCRSA Coastal Management Program is meant to work in concert with and complement these other mechanisms. Finally, the Issues, Goals, and Objectives support earlier planning efforts by communities and residents within the AWCRSA.

Public participation and agency review requirements turn preparation of a coastal management program into an opportunity to inform governmental agencies and potential developers of regional needs and objectives. Once completed, coastal programs are frequently used by agency and industry staff to learn about an area prior to taking action. As a result, issues, goals, and objectives include topics - such as "maximizing use of local businesses to support sound resource development" - which cannot be implemented or required through coastal management, or are clearly outside the jurisdiction of a Coastal Resource Service Area. The inclusion of such topics can result in government actions or coastal development that more effectively accommodates regional interests.

The following Issues, Goals, and Objectives incorporate updates and revisions to Issues, Goals, and Objectives developed in 1991 by the AWCRSA Board through a survey and a public forum. The revisions and list of issues were developed at a community workshop held in Unalaska on June 29, 2001, along with review and comments provided by the AWCRSA Board of Directors in work sessions held in Unalaska and by teleconference during September, October, and November 2001.

## **General Issues**

At the community workshop in Unalaska in June 2001, participants discussed issues that affect the Western Aleutians and how the coastal management program could address those issues. General issues were discussed, as well as specific issues related to each of the twelve statewide standards identified in the Alaska Coastal Management Program. AWCRSA Board members kept those issues in front of them as they reviewed and revised the 1991 goals and objectives during their Board meetings and work sessions in the winter of 2001 and 2002. In their revisions, they incorporated changes that address the issues identified. The following general issues were identified at the June 2001 workshop:

- Nationwide permits do not allow for local input.

- No end date to project permits (dock project in Unalaska is example); open-ended extensions to existing permit.
- None or limited ability to influence issuing of federal permits (including extensions).
- None or little ability to renew and comment on project modification (in order to balance changes in community perspective/views with ability of industry to proceed with projects).
- The Alaska Coastal Management Program is complex, and there is limited understanding on what it is supposed to do and why.
- There is a need for more use of local knowledge in decision making (conflict between scientific and local knowledge).
- The CRSA needs accurate and timely information concerning project reviews (from agencies, applicants, communities).
- There is a need for adequate time to complete project reviews.
- Permitting takes a long a time, slows down development.
- It takes too long to get a project permitted.
- Smaller communities deal with logistical limitations (transport, communication, population, community awareness).
- Smaller communities may have different needs/perspectives (community level policies).
- There are FUDS/environmental clean up consequences for communities.
- There is a need to protect the few trees in the region.

## Coastal Development

All of the communities within the AWCRSA are coastal. Suitable areas for development are few, due primarily to the terrain and secondly to land ownership patterns. Most of the potential development sites are located in or near existing communities within a short distance from the coastline. With limited land availability to site residential, industrial, and commercial development, each community is faced with land use conflicts when planning for future development.

Throughout the AWCRSA, a major concern is to facilitate sound economic development activities while maintaining productive stocks of fish and wildlife, air and water quality, and other natural resource values. Essentially all of the land available for development within the AWCRSA is located in the "zone of direct influence" of the coastal environment (Chapter 3 - Coastal Boundary). As discussed in Chapter 5 (Implementation), all major development in the AWCRSA will require a review for consistency with the Standards of the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) and the policies of the AWCRSA coastal program. In addition, other state and federal standards require that the planning and approval of shoreline developments give first priority to water-dependent uses, second priority to water-related uses, and then priority to uses which are neither water-dependent nor water-related and for which there is not a reasonable inland alternative. In some instances, the evaluation of development proposals will need to consider the potential effects of cumulative impacts on coastal resources and an appropriate balance between the type and level of development activity and the maintenance of coastal resource values.

Most of the land within the AWCRSA is owned or managed by various federal agencies and native corporate entities. Some lands conveyed to village Native corporations are also within the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, and uses of these lands must comply with refuge management guidelines. In past planning efforts for these areas, residents of the AWCRSA

have been provided an opportunity to comment, but were not always afforded early and active participation to their satisfaction.

## **Issues**

- Coordination of effort between the local planning authority, the coastal district, and nationwide permits is critical to avoiding unforeseen cumulative impacts.
- Substantial delays from the time of original project review and permitting to the beginning of actual project development activities often results in additional resource concerns as community perspectives change and resource knowledge improves.
- The differences between the needs of smaller communities and those of larger communities requires flexibility in management perspectives.
- The needs of development must be balanced with other needs such as resource protection and subsistence and recreation use.
- Remediation of developed areas requires careful consideration of historical uses, for example subsistence. If an area used for development was previously used for subsistence, should it be restored to be available for subsistence again?
- Where alternate siting is proposed for projects, local knowledge and perspective, and local interests and preferences should direct agencies in site selection.
- Local and public interests are essential in balancing agency perspectives and interests.
- The public process and public participation must be assured in making development decisions.

## **Goal A**

**Actively pursue land use planning to guide community and regional growth.**

In accordance with the desires of the local residents, land use planning is an important step toward defining desirable community growth and development and evaluating options for the use of coastal resources and habitats. It can also provide a functional forum to coordinate planning efforts with other entities.

### **Objective 1**

Support preparation of current comprehensive land use development and management plans for each community and for the region.

### **Objective 2**

Coordinate future land use planning, development, and management with appropriate local, state, federal, and private entities.

### **Objective 3**

Identify lands with potential for future commercial and recreational development activities.

## **Goal B**

**Ensure that land use planning efforts in the region and in AWCRSA communities are coordinated with maximum opportunity for involvement of local residents.**

Given the extent of federal and Native-owned lands in the Aleutians West CRSA, development and planning activities can have a significant effect on the region and its communities. The coastal management process is not intended to replace the role of local communities in regional

planning, but it can be used to strengthen their involvement. It is in the best interests of the Aleutians region to involve communities, major private landowners, and the CRSA in early stages of private and governmental planning and development activities.

#### **Objective 1**

Maintain and improve communication between the AWCRSA, the region's municipalities, villages, state and federal agencies, and Native corporations.

#### **Objective 2**

Develop a procedure for early and meaningful community and regional participation in federal, state, and Native corporation planning and development activities.

### **Goal C**

**Evaluate areas for future industrial and commercial development.**

The region will probably experience continued growth and expansion of industrial, transportation, and commercial uses. In some cases, harbor areas are already intensively used and land for further expansion is not readily available in adjacent locations. In the region's smaller communities, there is interest in developing dock, marine vessel support, and seafood processing facilities that can contribute to local economic development.

#### **Objective 1**

Promote wise siting and sound construction practices for future industrial and commercial development to ensure the most efficient utilization of waterfront areas.

#### **Objective 2**

Address existing space limitations and access problems in harbor areas during new or expanded industrial or commercial development.

#### **Objective 3**

Ensure that new development complies with state, municipal, and federal land, air, and water regulations.

#### **Objective 4**

Where appropriate, provide incentives for commercial development adjacent to the harbor area to consolidate related facilities.

### **Goal D**

**Support sound development and construction in coastal and offshore areas.**

Many of the potential development projects in the Aleutians West CRSA area will necessitate the placement of structures in the water or alteration of the offshore or shoreline environment. The siting, construction, and maintenance of these developments are of concern since they may affect other coastal resources.

#### **Objective 1**

Ensure that features such as breakwaters, jetties, and causeways are sited and designed to minimize impacts on coastal habitats and resources.

**Objective 2**

Remove temporary structures such as berms, pads, and ramps upon completion of use and restore the disturbed habitat to blend with natural contours, unless restoration would cause more environmental damage than leaving the temporary structure in place.

**Objective 3**

When designing and siting piers, wharfs, and floating docks, maintain natural circulation patterns. Future development should not have long-term adverse impacts on water quality or marine habitats.

**Objective 4**

Ensure that siting and placement of structures and fills and the scheduling of blasting activities are accomplished in a manner, whenever possible, that avoids adverse impacts, and that mitigation be considered, to offset impacts to resources and resource users.

**Objective 5**

Work with the State of Alaska and the Federal Government to maintain the condition and integrity of harbor facilities.

**Objective 6**

Schedule site preparation and construction activities at times that minimize impact on coastal resources and use of coastal resources by local residents.

**Goal E**

**Identify guidelines for development of sources of fill material for upland and tideland.**

Accessible sources of construction materials (sand, gravel, and rock) are limited when compared to potential demands in some parts of the CRSA. Environmentally-acceptable material sites may need to be established to provide for future development activities.

**Objective 1**

Discourage the extraction of construction materials from wetlands, streams, lakes, or floodplains unless no feasible upland alternative is available.

**Objective 2**

Design gravel extraction areas and other sources of fill and construction materials to have low impact on the surrounding area, including visual screening as appropriate.

**Objective 3**

Encourage stabilization and re-vegetation of extraction areas.

**Goal F**

**Identify areas for future residential development.**

There is interest in expanding residential development in some parts of the CRSA. Land management and use allocations should take the need for current and future housing into consideration.

**Objective 1**

Establish and maintain close working relationships with major landowners to support development of new residential areas and housing.

**Objective 2**

Ensure that future residential development wisely uses available lands in a manner that enhances the appearance of communities and avoids unnecessary environmental impacts.

**Objective 3**

Ensure that residential developments fit into the natural surroundings and avoid areas with drainage problems, high wind danger, high avalanche potential, and high potential for mass wasting and erosion.

**Goal G**

**Increase year-round local employment opportunities.**

Year-round employment in the region, particularly in the smaller communities, has always been limited and highly dependent upon the government sector to provide jobs. Other employment opportunities are often cyclical and dependent on funding of capital projects, or seasonally related to commercial fishing and seafood processing.

**Objective 1**

Maximize use of local businesses and facilities in support of sound resource development activities.

**Objective 2**

Encourage the development of local businesses and industries that provide year-round employment.

**Goal H**

**Encourage expanded marine services and facilities.**

High cost and limited space have hampered the development of permanent marine facilities in the region. The current capacity of existing marine facilities may limit potential community and economic expansion.

**Objective 1**

Support communities and private landowners in identifying acceptable development of support services for commercial and recreational boats and other marine related services.

**Objective 2**

Support the expansion of onshore storage facilities, as needed, in new areas adjacent to the waterfront.

**Objective 3**

Provide habitat and local resource information assistance for the location of marine-based businesses, such as seafood processing and vessel repair and support facilities.

## **Goal I**

### **Improve harbor facilities.**

Presently there is a waiting list for available berths in the Unalaska small boat harbor. Existing locations are fully used and further expansion is dependent on the availability of additional lands and the physical constraints of the sites. Interest in building new harbor facilities is high among residents of the region.

#### **Objective 1**

Work with communities, the state, and private land owners to develop harbor plans that address future dock facilities, berthing, and onshore storage and facility space.

#### **Objective 2**

In response to local desires, support the development of new harbors for private and commercial vessels of all size classes.

## **Goal J**

### **Facilitate resolution of permitting conflicts between local applicants and state and federal agencies.**

Local municipalities and other entities often encounter problems understanding agency requirements and concerns when applying for state and federal permits for development activities. The distance between the region and Anchorage or Juneau, where the majority of state and federal permitting agencies are located, contributes to the communication problems. Through development of the AWCRSA coastal management program, the AWCRSA Board and staff have a major role in the permit review process and agency regulatory requirements and concerns. The AWCRSA can facilitate communication of permit requirements and resolution of issues between local applicants and regulatory agencies, resulting in more complete permit applications and minimizing avoidable conflicts during permit review. In the long term, the AWCRSA can provide assistance with advanced planning for specific areas.

#### **Objective 1**

Educate local entities concerning state and federal agency regulatory requirements and permitting issues.

#### **Objective 2**

Facilitate early communication between local interests and state and federal agencies on specific development projects.

#### **Objective 3**

Use advance planning tools to facilitate sound development and effective permit review in areas of special development concern.

#### **Objective 4**

Ensure that local knowledge, potential cumulative impacts, and current community needs are taken into consideration during the project application and review process.



## Coastal Habitats

The term "coastal resources habitats" refers both to the fish and wildlife resources of the AWCRSA and to the habitats that they use. The region is rich in fish and wildlife resources in terms of numbers and diversity of species present. Of particular importance are the marine mammal, bird, and fishery resources. These coastal resources are valuable for subsistence harvests, commercial fishing, and indigenous and migratory wildlife populations. Indigenous people in the region have relied on the fish and wildlife for thousands of years. The area's commercial fisheries are one of the most highly valued in the world. They significantly influence the economies of local communities and are used by fishing fleets from the lower 48 states and other countries. Finally, the importance of the fish and wildlife populations and habitats are reflected in the inclusion of much of the region in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

As abundant as the resources are, they are also sensitive to changes in their environment, outside influences, and disturbances. Incidental take, entanglement in fishing gear, and ingestion of marine pollutants affects marine mammals and seabirds. Certain types of coastal habitats such as anadromous fish streams, estuaries marine mammal haulouts, and seabird rookeries may be exceptionally sensitive to disturbance.

Oil and gas exploration has occurred in the past and may resume in the future. The Department of Defense is active in the region, and their activities have the potential to alter coastal habitats or disrupt fish and wildlife populations. Care must be taken to guide development in a manner that is compatible with continued support of fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.

### Issues

- There are issues regarding the use of unstable slopes, management of run-off, sedimentation and erosion control, and the protection of the vegetative cover.
- There is a need to evaluate the relative value of habitat in relation to availability and amount of similar habitat.
- There are insufficient criteria or guidelines for assessment and decision making, including the process for developing the guidelines.
- There is inconsistency in habitats definitions at the agency level.

### Goal A

**Identify, maintain and protect biological resources and sensitive habitats and sensitive use areas.**

Knowledge of the fish and wildlife populations of the region and the locations of important habitats is a primary requirement of the coastal management program. The fish, wildlife, and coastal habitats of the AWCRSA are vulnerable to impacts in the immediate vicinity of communities and development activity sites. They are also vulnerable in remote and undeveloped areas to activities related to development such as vessel accidents and cumulative impacts. Sound design, siting, and construction and development procedures are necessary to minimize adverse effects on coastal habitats, resources, and their uses.

### Objective 1

Maintain a complete and up-to-date inventory of the abundance and distribution of fish and wildlife species in the region and their important coastal habitats.

**Objective 2**

Designate fish and wildlife species of primary importance to the residents of the region, define the species habitat requirements, and identify the criteria needed to protect these habitats, including protection from invasive and non-indigenous species.

**Objective 3**

Where appropriate, incorporate mitigation opportunities for development siting, construction, and operation to minimize both short- and long-term impacts to the resources of the coastal environment.

**Objective 4**

Encourage fisheries enhancement programs that are compatible with available habitats and existing resources.

**Goal B**

**Protect slope stability and minimize erosion.**

Vegetation present in onshore habitats stabilizes slopes by anchoring soil and minimizing erosion. Uncontrolled erosion can lead to unnecessary degradation of coastal habitats. Development activities or facilities that remove surface vegetation or alter surface drainage patterns must include appropriate mitigation measures to minimize the adverse effects of disturbance.

**Objective 1**

Minimize clearing and other disturbance of vegetation during development in upland areas.

**Objective 2**

Ensure adequate drainage of surface runoff from sheet flow and within defined drainage channels.

**Objective 3**

Consider the suitability and limitations of soils when siting proposed developments.

**Objective 4**

Minimize off-road vehicle use in areas sensitive to disturbance and erosion.

## **Air, Land, And Water Quality**

With some localized exceptions, the AWCRSA is fortunate in having excellent air and water quality. The frequent winds and storm systems in the western Aleutian Islands provide an air exchange that makes local problems caused by inversions very temporary. The high rainfall generally provides communities with a more than adequate supply of good water. Although concerns identified by local residents in the past included localized air quality and water quality problems, substantial improvements have been made in recent years to address those issues, particularly in larger communities. Harbor water quality is an important concern, particularly as it relates to impacts on the productivity of local fish and wildlife habitats.

With expansion of the commercial fishing and seafood processing industries, the region is becoming a major marine trans-shipment center. Various materials classified as hazardous are

transported through or stored in the region. Communities may not always receive information about the timing and nature of hazardous substance shipments. Residents are concerned about their health and safety in the event of an accident involving oil spills or hazardous substances in the AWCRSA and for the ability of shippers to respond to an accident in a timely and effective manner, especially in the smaller communities.

## **Issues**

- Cumulative impacts are difficult to assess and difficult to control.
- Dust is a major air quality impactor. Need to manage dust control.
- Oil spill response materials must be adequately sized for potential spill events.
- Facility siting decisions, including solid waste and sewage facilities, must consider alternate sites that minimize air and water quality impacts. Need to site facilities to minimize impacting air and water quality.
- Development must include means and measures for preserving water quality.

## **Goal A**

### **Maintain or improve the air quality of the region.**

Dusty conditions resulting from unpaved roads are an identified source of air quality problems in some of the communities, although substantial improvements have been made. Paving and repair of roads is one of the highest transportation system priorities, but a dust control program needs to be established for other roads. Increased use of local harbors by a variety of vessels has brought occasional contamination of the air in the harbor areas. Power producers have also been identified as a source of site-specific air quality problems.

#### **Objective 1**

Support paving of community roads or establishment of a dust control program for those roads.

#### **Objective 2**

Work with power producers to develop a means of minimizing air pollution.

#### **Objective 3**

Evaluate the feasibility of alternatives to fossil fuels as a power-generating source.

## **Goal B**

### **Maintain or Improve Existing Water Quality of the Region.**

#### **Objective 1**

Water quality concerns include potential impacts from seafood processing waste discharges, fuel spills, sewage discharges from boats, and from shore sources, including municipal and community sewage systems and improperly disposed refuse and solid waste.

#### **Objective 2**

Serve as a resource and encourage seafood processors and the State of Alaska to improve methods of waste disposal from seafood processing and to minimize water quality impacts from such disposal at existing facilities.

**Objective 3**

Serve as a resource and encourage municipal and state governments to improve waste oil and boat sewage handling and disposal services.

**Objective 4**

Serve as a resource and encourage local, state, and federal governments to enforce water quality regulations and provide adequate monitoring and enforcement in marine waters.

**Objective 5**

Encourage programs to clean up marine garbage and litter on beaches.

**Objective 6**

Serve as a resource and encourage the local, state, and federal government, and private industry to conduct research and provide information on water quality and circulation characteristics.

**Objective 7**

Work with local and regional emergency planning agencies to develop oil spill contingency plans and risk management plans.

**Goal C**

**Develop an increased understanding of hazardous materials shipped through or stored in the region and a local capability to handle spills of petroleum products and hazardous materials.**

In the event of an accidental discharge of petroleum products or hazardous materials, prior knowledge of the nature of hazardous materials being stored or transported in the region and the advance preparation of appropriate contingency plans would be invaluable. The Aleutians and Pribilof Islands Local Emergency Planning Committee' and the Environmental Protection Agency's are excellent sources of information.

**Objective 1**

Work with appropriate local, state and federal agencies and private shippers to identify the type and characteristics of hazardous substances shipped through the region.

**Objective 2**

Participate in the development and review of spill contingency plans for petroleum products and other hazardous substances shipped through or stored in the AWCRSA, including military facilities.

**Objective 3**

Work with appropriate local, state and federal agencies to develop regulations and procedures that minimize the health and safety threat to residents posed by the shipment and storage of hazardous substances.

**Objective 4**

Encourage development of a spill response capability based within the region, including training of local individuals and the storage and maintenance of containment and cleanup equipment to respond quickly to a spill of crude oil or refined petroleum products.

### **Objective 5**

Encourage location of a regional oil spill response center in the AWCRSA.

## **Goal D**

**Ensure that air, land, and water quality are protected in the siting of developing facilities and with the cleanup of formerly used sites, including defense sites.**

### **Objective 1**

Ensure consideration of cumulative impacts when siting new facilities or expanding existing facilities.

### **Objective 2**

Work with community members to ensure consideration of potential impacts on existing developments when siting new facilities.

### **Objective 3**

Work with communities and local, state and federal agencies in identification and cleanup of formerly used defense sites.

## **Subsistence**

Subsistence and personal use harvest activities such as hunting, fishing, gathering of intertidal plants and animals, and berry picking are presently and have traditionally been important to the residents of the AWCRSA. Such activities represent an important part of their lifestyle, well-being, and reason for living in their communities. In smaller communities where transportation adds significantly to the cost of purchased foods and wage employment opportunities are extremely limited, the pursuit of subsistence activities takes on cultural and economic importance. Subsistence activities and personal use hunting, fishing, and gathering activities are valued by local residents.

Land and water uses, which adversely impact fish and wildlife habitats threaten this valued way of life. In recent years local residents have noted a decline of available subsistence resources. For example, sea lions and otters harvested for subsistence by the Unangans have declined in population in certain areas of the Aleutian region.

Some of the subsistence resources, particularly waterfowl, traditionally used by AWCRSA residents, are managed by the by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These parties must work cooperatively to balance subsistence requirements and wildlife management needs.

## **Issues**

- How do you determine customary and traditional use?
- How is subsistence use identified (sport vs. subsistence use/activity)?
- To what extent does subsistence use becomes significant?
- How does historical subsistence use influence decision making (restoration vs. abandoning)?
- How do you discriminate between sports/commercial/subsistence use of an area?
- Subsistence is not always an obviously visible activity. How do you create understanding of subsistence as a cultural or personal activity?

- How and to what extent does subsistence influence the contents and implementation of a coastal management plan? What weight does it have?
- How do you approach subsistence protection (areas and activities)?
- What data should be used in subsistence information (local knowledge vs. scientific approach)?

## **Goal A**

**Protect and Conserve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats to allow subsistence and personal use harvests by AWCRSA residents.**

### **Objective 1**

Work with local, state, and federal agencies to identify and appropriately manage subsistence and personal use fishing areas and marine resources important to residents.

### **Objective 2**

Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and the State of Alaska to address declines in marine life in some areas of the Aleutians

### **Objective 3**

Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to balance subsistence harvest and waterfowl management needs.

## **Goal B**

**Accommodate subsistence and personal use hunting and fishing activities.**

### **Objective 1**

Work with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that the public is aware of subsistence and personal use harvest regulations and that these regulations are enforced.

### **Objective 2**

Work with private, state, and federal landowners to make provisions for traditional subsistence activities and personal use harvests, ensuring that permission is also obtained for use of private property.

### **Objective 3**

Support acceptable public access to areas, under landowner's authorization, and resources traditionally used for subsistence and personal use harvests.

## **Transportation, Coastal Access And Utilities**

The Western Aleutians combine a role as a transportation hub and commodity trans-shipment center with a sense of isolation from the rest of Alaska and a dependence on air transportation for passenger movement. Inclement weather, large distances, and high costs affect local use of air transportation in particular. Residents have expressed a desire for transportation system improvements, including access to the rest of the state and improved community systems.

Dependable and cost-efficient utility systems are also important given the relative isolation of the communities in the region. Some of the local utility systems date from military times and are in need of upgrading.

## **Issues**

- Before establishing new routes and facilities, there is a need to assess their compatibility with existing routes and facilities.
- There is a need for improved transportation in the region, including lower costs and more competition.
- In some communities there are limited sites for utilities, and consideration may need to be given to inland utility sites and routes.
- There are substandard local road systems.
- There is limited storage and holding facilities, warehouses, cold & dry storage (freight); larger-scale type of storage needed.
- Assess the need for harbor improvement projects throughout the region.

## **Goal A**

### **Improve air access to the communities of the region.**

Improved air access would be a benefit to local residents and is an important concern of all the communities in the AWCRSA. In particular, air access to the smaller communities is the only means of bringing in supplies and mail and allows residents to travel to and from their communities. Improved access could also encourage additional economic development since it would provide faster delivery of seafood products, enhance the work location for new industry and employees, facilitate crew changes on catcher/processor vessels and fish processing crews, and increase recreation/tourism opportunities.

#### **Objective 1**

Support improved air service and access to the region and its communities.

#### **Objective 2**

Work with the state and federal government to implement airport improvements in the region.

## **Goal B**

### **Provide road access to potential residential and recreation areas.**

The region contains developable lands that could be used for both residential and recreational purposes, but suffers from lack of access. Increased recreational access would benefit local residents and visitors to the region.

#### **Objective 1**

Work with the State of Alaska, municipalities, and landowners to develop access to potential residential and recreation areas.

## **Goal C**

### **Upgrade and maintain local road systems.**

Paving and other road improvements are a high priority of residents. Dust levels from unpaved roads also contribute to air pollution problems.

#### **Objective 1**

Support efforts of the State of Alaska and city governments to upgrade and maintain local road systems.

### **Objective 2**

Support efforts of the State of Alaska and city governments to pave local roads or develop dust control programs to reduce air quality problems.

## **Goal D**

**Mitigate the impacts of transportation facilities on fish and wildlife habitats.**

The expansion or improvement of transportation facilities should consider the potential effects of such actions on important fish and wildlife habitats during design, siting, construction, and operation of those facilities.

### **Objective 1**

Incorporate adequate protection of coastal resources and habitats in transportation planning and development activities.

## **Goal E**

**Provide for improvement of facilities that support commercial fisheries development.**

Improved or expanded port and harbor facilities are an important requisite for local community involvement in the expanding commercial fishery and seafood processing industry.

### **Objective 1**

Support development of port and harbor sites and accommodate port facility needs in the Western Aleutians.

## **Goal F**

**Improve marine safety and reduce the number of vessel groundings in the region.**

The level of marine traffic on which much of the economy of the region depends has increased to the point that vessel collisions and groundings are becoming more common and need to be reduced.

### **Objective 1**

Support improvement of navigation aids and procedures to reduce the number of vessel collisions and groundings, particularly in Dutch Harbor.

### **Objective 2**

Ensure any new development is undertaken in a manner that will minimize hazards to navigation.

## **Goal G**

**Provide reliable water supplies and sewage treatment systems.**

The water systems in some communities are inadequate. Some are lacking an adequate supply and pressure, and subject to leakage in the distribution system and turbidity events. Sewage treatment is inadequate in some communities as well. Some communities also lack an adequate water supply for emergency services. Not all docks and buildings have adequate



facilities for firefighting if the need arises. Improvement of these systems is an important utility issue.

**Objective 1**

Support water system improvements to reduce leakage loss and to provide an adequate and dependable water distribution system for future growth.

**Objective 2**

Work with state, federal, and local governments to assist communities that are in need of improved public and private sewage treatment and disposal systems.

**Goal H**

**Improve marine and solid waste disposal services and facilities in some areas.**

Indiscriminate dumping of marine trash and the need for improved harbor and solid waste collection and disposal facilities are important issues in all of the communities within the AWCRSA. The quality of the service is marginal, particularly given the potential magnitude of the waste disposal demand resulting from marine garbage disposal requirements created by the MARPOL regulations.

**Objective 1**

Promote the development of trash and waste collection and disposal systems for the region's harbors.

**Objective 2**

Support improvements to the solid waste/landfill facilities in all communities within the AWCRSA.

**Objective 3**

Work with state and federal agencies to fund the design and construction of a regional marine waste disposal facility.

**Objective 4**

Work toward obtaining funding to bring solid waste disposal systems into compliance with applicable regulations.

**Objective 5**

Increase public awareness of marine and solid waste disposal problems through distribution of informational brochures, city ordinances, and enforcement of state, federal, and local regulations.

**Objective 6**

Encourage other options for solid waste disposal, such as incineration, compaction and bailing, and recycling.

## **Fisheries And Seafood Processing**

Commercial fishing and seafood processing are the most important components of the AWCRSA's economy. The close proximity of the vast marine resources of the Bering Sea and active encouragement of onshore processing facilities has enabled Unalaska to become a major

seafood processing port. Given the AWCRSA location with regard to fishing activities and resources and its transportation link to markets in the rest of Alaska, the Pacific Rim, and the Pacific Northwest, there may be potential to further expand the region's involvement in this industry, particularly the participation of smaller communities.

The communities of Atka, Nikolski, and Adak are also interested in improving their local economies through expansion of commercial fishing and seafood processing. Activities under consideration include increased participation in groundfish fisheries, diversification of fisheries, and the location or expansion of seafood processing facilities.

In order to sustain commercial use of the region's resources for years to come, management measures must maintain the historic productivity of fish and shellfish populations in the Bering Sea. Issues, such as waste, bycatch, and enforcement, have been addressed through regulation and significant improvements in technology and monitoring. Continued active enforcement and monitoring of fishing regulations is necessary to protect the resources.

New ventures in commercial fisheries may be available to local residents through mariculture and non-finish aquaculture. Should the State of Alaska pursue development of mariculture, the western Aleutians contain potential mariculture sites that could extend the seasonal nature of the commercial fishing industry and provide year-round employment. Conflicts with natural fish stocks and subsistence and recreation use areas would have to be resolved.

## **Issues**

- Is there a perception that processing carries significant environmental impacts?
- What environmental risks are acceptable (trade offs)? Need to address environmental impacts vs. social/economic impacts.
- How can federal permitting be expedited? Obtaining a permit is a lengthy process.
- How can flexibility be built into the coastal management plan to address the dynamic nature of the fishing industry?
- How does seafood processing influence labor force, transportation, services, etc?
- Are there concerns about air quality relating to electrical and steam generation?

## **Goal A**

**Protect and enhance the commercial fish and shellfish resources of the western Aleutians.**

The current success and future expansion of the commercial fishing and seafood processing industries are totally dependent on the protection and appropriate management of fish and shellfish stocks.

### **Objective 1**

Identify critical fish and shellfish habitat and important harvest areas in the region.

### **Objective 2**

Ensure protective measures for fish habitat and important fishing grounds through existing management and review/authorization processes; where necessary, institute special resource protection provisions for important habitats within the AWCRSA.

### **Objective 3**

Limit potential conflicts for competing uses of resources in important fishing areas during commercial harvest seasons.

### **Objective 4**

Encourage location of a fisheries research center within the region.

## **Goal B**

**Encourage further development of shore-based processing facilities.**

Seafood processing plants provide employment and both direct and indirect economic development. Residents of Atka process locally-harvested fish. Further development within other communities could have a positive effect on establishing local fisheries and providing additional local employment. Although seafood processing provides an important contribution to the economy, disposal of fish processing wastes has the potential to adversely affect water quality, particularly in harbors or embayments with limited circulation or where subsistence and personal use activities are important. Feasible alternatives for processing waste disposal need to be developed and should be implemented on an expeditious schedule.

### **Objective 1**

Encourage the use and expansion of existing shore-based seafood processing.

### **Objective 2**

Ensure that the discharge of seafood processing waste does not cause significant adverse effects on water quality or other uses of marine waters in the AWCRSA.

### **Objective 3**

Encourage the incorporation of fish meal recovery systems in seafood processing operations to increase product utilization and reduce problems associated with seafood waste disposal; encourage coordinated solutions between processors and communities to address existing processing waste disposal problems.

## **Goal C**

**Support new commercial fisheries development for local residents.**

The commercial fishing industry in the Western Aleutians is in a continual state of transition, depending on the condition of the fishery stocks, regulations governing foreign and domestic fleet fishery harvests, and changes in fishing technology such as vessel and gear type. In addition, shellfish and finfish rearing are receiving renewed interest in Alaska. Potential sites may exist in the Western Aleutians area.

### **Objective 1**

Support the siting of viable commercial fisheries projects in the AWCRSA region, including docks, cold storage, processing, shipping, and other support facilities.

### **Objective 2**

Support aquaculture and mariculture development that is compatible with the existing resources and economy.

### **Objective 3**

Encourage development of adequate utility, fuel, and water services for land-based seafood processing facilities.

## **Goal D**

### **Maintain and improve commercial fisheries resources.**

Resources that are targeted by commercial fishing activities need to be managed to maintain or improve fisheries stocks. Adequate enforcement of fishing regulations by state and federal agencies is also crucial to maintaining fisheries resources.

### **Objective 1**

Encourage continued monitoring and enforcement of state and federal commercial fisheries regulations.

### **Objective 2**

Encourage the enhancement or rehabilitation of high productivity fish habitats.

### **Objective 3**

Examine the potential for locally-controlled fish hatcheries within the region for commercially important species.

## **Natural Hazard Areas**

Earthquakes, high winds, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, avalanches and landslides, coastal erosion, and storm flooding and runoff are natural hazards within the Aleutians West CRSA. The region has experienced frequent and occasionally large magnitude seismic events; however, the relatively low level of human settlement has minimized loss of life and property damage resulting from these events. The location and prevailing meteorological conditions make many areas within the CRSA subject to occasional high winds and related property damage. Several areas within Unalaska/Dutch Harbor experience avalanches during the course of a normal winter. Other areas are known to have occasional rock falls, and coastal flooding can occur during storms.

## **Issues**

- Need to consider hazards in the siting of all facilities and hazardous substances.
- Need to consider avalanche and mud slide hazards in development activities.
- Need to communicate and coordinate with Local Emergency Planning Committees.
- Need to properly locate emergency alert equipment to meet the needs/interests of communities.

## **Goal A**

### **Prevent loss of life and property damage from geophysical hazards, including earthquakes and tsunamis, wind, landslides, and avalanches.**

As a seismically active area, the AWCRSA can be expected to experience seismic events of a magnitude that could cause injury, death, and property damage. Measures can be taken to minimize loss of life during future seismic events. Among geophysical hazards in the AWCRSA, the potential for damage from high winds is often overlooked. The occurrence of high winds is a

relatively common event in the region. Siting, design and construction measures can be used to protect life and property from these geophysical hazards in the AWCRSA.

**Objective 1**

Incorporate siting, design, and construction features in development of facilities to minimize damage from seismic events.

**Objective 2**

Discourage the construction of residences and public gathering places in areas that have a high risk of tsunami damage.

**Objective 3**

Ensure that development facilities and structures in areas prone to high winds are designed and constructed using appropriate techniques that ensure human safety and minimize property damage.

**Objective 4**

Ensure that permanent developments designed for human habitation are located outside dangerous avalanche areas and landslide zones.

**Objective 5**

Ensure that improvements such as roads and power lines are designed and sited to minimize damage from avalanches and landslides.

**Goal B**

**Ensure coordination with emergency planning agencies.**

**Objective 1**

Support development of an emergency response program for AWCRSA residents in the case of a major seismic event or tsunami.

## **Recreation And Tourism**

The Western Aleutians offer spectacular scenery, abundant fish and wildlife, and ample opportunities for outdoor recreation such as boating, fishing, hunting, beachcombing, camping, and cross-country skiing.

Indoor recreation opportunities are available in Unalaska but are relatively limited in the smaller communities. Residents of the region have expressed an interest in improving indoor recreation facilities and activities.

Tourism in the AWCRSA is, for the most part, an untapped resource. Potential tourist attractions include the rugged geographical setting, seabirds and marine mammals, recreational fishing, World War II history, and remote recreation activities such as kayaking, hiking, and camping. Tourism is hindered by lengthy travel time and the infrequency and expense of transportation. Air travel, the primary mode of transportation to the region, is expensive and infrequent to the smaller communities. The state ferry system makes a limited number of stops at Unalaska. Lowering the cost of reaching the region, increasing the frequency of flights or ferry service, and promoting tourist attractions could increase the level of tourism within the region.

## **Issues**

- There is a need to identify sites for recreation.
- Whether or not to restore sites that were used in the past but are no longer used must be addressed.
- The level of environmental risk that is acceptable for recreational development should be assessed.
- Need to provide for recreational facilities using an environmentally sound approach.
- There is a need to balance development with interests/needs of residents.
- There is a need to encourage ecotourism.

## **Goal A**

### **Maintain and protect high value resource areas important to the tourism industry.**

Certain natural and historic features of the region are more readily accessible and of significant interest to tourist visitors. Special effort should be made to maintain these attractions.

#### **Objective 1**

Recognize the value of the coastal community, coastal resources, and the scenic views to recreational users and the tourism industry.

#### **Objective 2**

Identify areas of high recreational value and use and ensure that these locations retain their unique qualities.

#### **Objective 3**

Ensure public access to public lands.

#### **Objective 4**

Where possible, locate industrial and commercial sites away from important natural resource habitats and areas of recreational and tourism interest.

## **Goal B**

### **Promote the recreation and tourism values of the Western Aleutians.**

Greater exposure of the Western Aleutians' recreation and tourism values, including fish and wildlife resources and World War II history, could result in increased recreation/tourism in the region.

#### **Objective 1**

Encourage and support local, state, and federal agencies and private organizations to plan for and develop recreation and tourism resources and facilities.

#### **Objective 2**

Identify and encourage the development of services (including transportation and lodging), supplies, and opportunities that address the requirements of tourists; encourage commercial ventures to meet these demands.

### **Objective 3**

Encourage the development of promotional materials such as recreation guides, maps, posters, and brochures.

### **Objective 4**

Encourage infrastructure development that would help to institute affordable air and ferry service to the region.

### **Objective 5**

Support public access to developed waterfront areas.

## **Goal C**

### **Improve opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreation activities.**

Residents in all communities have expressed an interest in increasing opportunities and facilities associated with indoor and outdoor recreation.

### **Objective 1**

Work with communities and school districts to develop more opportunities for indoor recreation activities and facilities.

### **Objective 2**

Coordinate with interested local groups to identify specific needs for additional recreation areas and facilities.

## **Archaeological And Historical Resources**

The Western Aleutians are rich in archaeological and historical resources. The Unangan culture has been impacted over the past 250 years, first by the Russians and subsequently by the American cultures. In order to gain a deeper appreciation of the history and heritage of the Unangans, it is important that residents of the western Aleutians understand the historical interaction between these three cultures. Without proper care, sites and artifacts of this rich heritage could be subject to potential damage from development activities, looting, or vandalism.

In general, the history of the Aleutian region has not been adequately researched. The area is rich in history and physical evidence of the recent past. Russian exploration and administration of the region left a legacy of historic buildings and sites. Historic sites and remnants of World War II military operations can be found throughout the AWCRSA region, particularly in Unalaska (Amaknak Island) and Fort Glenn on Umnak Island, which are both National Historic Landmarks.

## **Issues**

- There is a need to identify and protect archaeological and historical resources.
- Need to recognize that resources may be located in land away from the actual coast.
- Need to make people aware of the value of the resource.
- Need to recognize related resources. View sheds and historic landscapes also have historic and cultural value.

## **Goal A**

### **Protect the archaeological resources of the Western Aleutians.**

#### **Objective 1**

Support further archaeological and historical research, inventories, documentation, and preservation activities for sites in the Aleutians West CRSA.

#### **Objective 2**

Support adequate enforcement of regulations protecting archaeological resources and sites, as mandated in the Archaeological Resource Protection Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Alaska Historic Preservation Act.

#### **Objective 3**

Work with local, state, federal, and private representatives to mitigate conflicts between development activities and archaeological and historical resources.

## **Goal B**

### **Promote the archaeological and cultural significance of the Western Aleutians.**

#### **Objective 1**

Work with local, state, federal, and private interests to promote public understanding of the significance of the archaeological and cultural resources of the region.

#### **Objective 2**

Encourage public awareness of archaeological and historical sites in the region and the harm created by disturbance or vandalism; support enforcement of existing cultural resource protection laws, such as the Alaska State Historic Preservation Act.

## **Goal C**

### **Promote the military history of the Western Aleutians.**

#### **Objective 1**

Support local and private interests, the State of Alaska, the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in identifying and documenting the historical resources of the region.

#### **Objective 2**

Encourage and support the development of written and visual materials for the public that explain and describe the historic nature of the region.

#### **Objective 3**

Encourage public awareness of the relocation of native communities and the hardships and long-term impacts created.

## **Energy Facilities**

Large quantities of refined petroleum products are used in the AWCRSA for heat and generation of electricity by both domestic and commercial/industrial users. Marine vessel support and service activities in Unalaska also require storage and transfer facilities for a



significant quantity of vessel fuels. These products are shipped by tanker to the region and stored in tank farms in the communities and at military facilities. Care must be used in the siting, construction, and maintenance of fuel storage and distribution systems. There is heightened public awareness for the necessity of safeguards to prevent accidental oil spills and to provide adequate and timely spill response for incidents on land or at sea.

Exploration for oil and gas resources has occurred in waters off the AWCRSA. Some exploration support activities were based in Unalaska. Additional exploration by oil companies will depend on future OCS lease sales.

## **Issues**

- Need to ensure proper siting of energy facilities.
- Need to integrate energy distribution (intertie) in Unalaska for both public & private.
- Need to address the transportation of hazardous substances throughout the region.
- Need to clean up and remove abandoned energy related facilities.
- Should the CRSA promote and/or encourage alternate energy sources?

## **Goal A**

**Ensure the safe transportation and storage of fuel and other hazardous substances in the region.**

Local bulk fuel storage facilities are of benefit to both communities and their economies. It is important to construct, operate, and maintain fuel storage and transfer facilities in a manner that minimizes impacts to health, safety, and the environment.

### **Objective 1**

Work with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, local communities, private operators, and the U.S. Department of Defense to evaluate operation and maintenance measures to minimize potential health, safety, and environmental impacts from bulk fuel facilities in the AWCRSA.

### **Objective 2**

Work with the fuel shipment and storage industry to prepare adequate oil spill contingency plans with in-region capability to respond quickly to spill events.

## **Goal B**

**Ensure that negative impacts from potential oil and gas exploration and development activities are minimized.**

With implementation of appropriate safeguards, the impacts of oil and gas exploration and development activities can be minimized.

### **Objective 1**

Work with the oil and gas industry to schedule exploration activities to minimize interference during sensitive life stages of biological resources, including marine mammals, seabirds, and aquatic animals.

### **Objective 2**

Work with the oil and gas industry to prepare adequate oil spill contingency plans with in-region capability to respond quickly to spill events.

### **Objective 3**

Should future oil and gas exploration activities occur, encourage the oil and gas industry to operate support activities within the region in a manner that maximizes economic benefits to local residents.

## **Sand and Gravel Extraction**

Sand and gravel extraction has been the most active and economically valuable mining activity in the Western Aleutians. All forms of transportation and industrial, commercial and residential construction need materials such as rock, sand, and gravel. Traditional sources of sand and gravel include floodplains, upland pits, and shot-rock quarries. The complex land ownership status complicates sand and gravel management and extraction within the AWCRSA. Environmental concerns related to construction material mining include impacts to anadromous fish streams and erosion control. Rock quarries and other activities near the ocean also raise concerns about damage to fish and wildlife found in nearshore waters from the hydrostatic overpressures related to blasting.

### **Issues**

- Need for appropriate siting of mineral extraction sites.
- Need for reclamation of extraction sites.
- How to manage removal of waste generated at sights.
- How to manage conflicts over surface and subsurface ownership.
- How to manage run-off, erosion, and dust impacts.
- Lack of local planning and management relating to such sites.
- Lack of easily available resources (must blast to obtain material).
- Problem of drilling and shooting rock quarries next to full fuel tanks.
- Need to consider the effects of blasting on sensitive marine habitat.

### **Goal A**

**Provide opportunities for mineral resource exploration and development while avoiding adverse impacts to biological and cultural resources.**

#### **Objective 1**

Support identification of potential mineral and sand and gravel resources and appropriate development guidelines that minimize impacts to fish and wildlife resources and archaeological/historical sites.

#### **Objective 2**

Identify effective mitigative measures to address the potential adverse effects of mineral, sand, and gravel development on coastal resources.

#### **Objective 3**

Ensure that projects requirements designed to minimize adverse consequences of mineral extraction and sand and gravel development are incorporated into leases, permits, and

authorizations; provide adequate monitoring to ensure compliance with the conditions of the authorizations.

## **Goal B**

**Support development of sand and gravel resources in a manner that facilitates local development and avoids adverse impacts.**

### **Objective 1**

Develop guidelines and priorities for development and extraction of rock, sand, and gravel within the region.

## **Timber Harvest**

No timber resources exist in the AWCRSA. No specific issues, goals, and objectives have been identified.

## 2.0 Coastal Boundary

### Introduction

The Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA) coastal management program addresses all the lands and waters within the district program, as shown in the *AWCRSA Resource Inventory Atlas* (2001). The Alaska Coastal Management Program requires that the coastal boundary encompass those lands and waters which would reasonably be included in the coastal area and subject to the district program, if they were not subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government. Excluded from Alaska's coastal zone boundaries are "...those lands owned, leased, held in trust or whose use is otherwise by law subject solely to the discretion of the Federal Government, its officers or agents..." (15 CFR 923.33). Activities on these lands are subject to the consistency provisions of Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

Activities on federal lands and waters that affect any land or water use or natural resource of the AWCRSA coastal zone must be consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the AWCRSA coastal management program.

### History of the AWCRSA Boundary Development

Prior to the former Coastal Policy Council approval of the AWCRSA district program, the initial coastal boundary was based on the *Coastal Zone Boundaries of Alaska* (1988, updated 1991 and 1995), prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat, in coordination with the Office of the Governor, Division of Governmental Coordination, Alaska Coastal Management Program.

This document defined the seaward boundary of the AWCRSA as the outer limit of the United States territorial sea (15 CFR 923.32), which is the three-geographical-mile line (43 CFR 3301.1). The seaward boundary was extracted from the Outer Continental Shelf Official Protraction Diagram map series (Bureau of Land Management, September 1984 and March 1985). As identified in the *Coastal Zone Boundaries of Alaska*, the existing inland coastal boundary of the AWCRSA under the Alaska Coastal Management Program included the lands and waters of all islands within areas defined as the "zone of direct influence" and "zone of direct interaction." The interim coastal boundary of the AWCRSA district program essentially encompassed all the lands and waters of the region within the three-mile territorial limit, although the island of Adak was excluded due to its military status.

The Coastal Policy Council formally adopted the *Coastal Zone Boundaries of Alaska* as the interim coastal zone boundary within the AWCRSA. The AWCRSA elected to adopt the initial (interim) coastal area boundary without further justification.

The regulations at 11 AAC 114.220(f) "grandfathered" all existing and approved district coastal zone boundaries: "Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, coastal zone boundaries approved by the former Coastal Policy Council under former 6 AAC 85.040 and 6 AAC 85.150 and the United States Department of Commerce under former 6 AAC 85.175 and in effect on July 1, 2004 remain in effect."

## **AWCRSA District Coastal Boundary**

The coastal boundary of the AWCRSA extends from Unalga Pass on the east to Attu Island on the west, encompassing all land and water areas to the three-mile offshore territorial limit. This boundary was retained during the 2002 update of the AWCRSA Coastal Management Plan. The island of Adak is no longer federally excluded and is within the coastal zone, subject to the Alaska Coastal Zone Management standards.

## **Coastal Boundary Compatibility**

The coastal area boundary of the AWCRSA must be sufficiently compatible with the approved coastal boundary of the adjoining Aleutians East Borough (AEB) to the east to allow consistent administration of the Alaska Coastal Management Program. Since both the AWCRSA district program and the AEB district program have adopted the *Coastal Zone Boundaries of Alaska* along the area of their common border, the adjoining district coastal boundaries are identical and compatible.

# **3.0 Policies**

## **Introduction**

A coastal management program must provide balance between development in coastal areas, activities of economic importance, fish and wildlife resources, air and water quality, and social and cultural values. In the western Aleutians, several objectives underscore a need for balance:

- Support the economically important commercial fishing and seafood processing industries while maintaining viable fish stocks, acceptable air and water quality, and recreation opportunities
- Accommodate both local preferences regarding development and uses of coastal resources, and state and federal management interests
- Ensure that short-term gains are not made at the expense of long-term resources.
- Recognize the unique patterns of land ownership in the Aleutians and the need for cooperation regarding coastal development and resource management

## **Consistency With Coastal Policies**

The Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA) coastal management plan receives its authority from the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, which allows states to develop their own coastal management programs. The Alaska Coastal Management Act of 1977 creates local coastal management districts and allows them to prepare local coastal management plans. Coastal districts are responsible for refining the more general statewide policies of the Alaska Coastal Management Program in a manner that best reflects local issues, goals, and objectives. When a district plan is approved and adopted by the State, the Alaska Coastal Management Program is amended to include the plan. Through local district plans, residents can develop, within certain guidelines, the policies that state agencies will use in making consistency determinations on permit applications.

The policies presented in this chapter form the basis for consistency determinations by federal and state agencies, and consistency recommendations by the AWCERSA Board and its staff. The policies of this coastal plan are considered the enforceable rules for the purpose of program implementation. All land and water uses and activities occurring on municipal, state and private lands, and federal actions that directly affect coastal resources within the AWCERSA coastal boundary, are subject to the policies of the coastal management program. Uses and activities must comply with these policies to be considered "consistent" with the AWCERSA's coastal management program. Through the Coastal Consistency Review process these policies will be used as the standards for evaluating consistency by all parties participating in the consistency determination that takes place during the review of state and federal permit applications. The project developer must assure the AWCERSA and the State of Alaska that the proposed project will comply with applicable plan policies.

## Enforceable Policies

The enforceable policies presented in this chapter are the AWCERSA's principles with regard to coastal management in the Western Aleutians. They provide guidance to all applicants and decision-makers on how coastal resources and uses should be managed within the AWCERSA's boundary. These policies will guide future decisions made not only by the AWCERSA, but also by project applicants, and by the state and federal governments. Enforceable policies have the force of law, and both state and federal agencies are required to recognize these enforceable policies. Further guidance regarding specific methods for reducing impacts are listed in the AWCERSA Resource Analysis, Volume II, Section 4. Enforceable policies are defined in AS 46.40.210(8). To meet state regulatory requirements, enforceable policies must address only uses and activities identified in the statewide standards and areas designated under 11 AAC 114.

Under State statutes, the enforceable policies of the district coastal management plan must:

- not duplicate, restate, or incorporate by reference statutes or administrative regulations adopted by state or federal agencies.
- be clear and concise as to the activities and persons affected by the policy and the requirements of the policy;
- use precise, prescriptive, and enforceable language;
- not address a matter regulated or authorized by state or federal law unless the enforceable policy relates to a matter of local concern; and
- not arbitrarily or unreasonably restrict or exclude uses of state concern.

A matter of local concern is a specific coastal use or resource within a defined portion of the district's coastal zone that is

- (1) demonstrated as sensitive to development;
- (2) not adequately addressed by state or federal law; and
- (3) of unique concern to the coastal resource district as demonstrated by local usage or scientific evidence.

Under state regulations, district enforceable policies that address matters included in the statewide standards must be a matter of local concern in order to be approved. In regard to the second prong of the test, a specific coastal use or resource is not adequately addressed by

state or federal law when (1) the laws are broad in scope and general in their application and more specificity is needed to address local issues; or (2) a local issue or management goal related to the categories of uses, activities or areas identified in the statewide standards and designations is not addressed by state or federal law.

The enforceable policies in this plan either fulfill the requirements of statewide standards that require specific actions be taken by coastal districts; or provide more specificity as needed to ensure local concerns are fully addressed.

## **Performance and Balance**

There are four general approaches in developing policies for a coastal management program:

- Performance Standards
- Design Standards
- Best Management Practices
- Best Management Practices Plans

### **Performance Standards**

A performance standard clearly describes a desired result, leaving the methods used to achieve that result up to the project applicant in consultation with project reviewers. By stating a desired result, a performance standard allows flexibility, because the methods used to achieve the result are not dictated by the policy. An applicant may select any acceptable methodology or procedure to satisfy the performance standard; however, they must also provide appropriate information to demonstrate that the performance standard has been met (e.g., water intake structures on anadromous fish streams must effectively prevent entrainment of juvenile fish). In order to be useful, a performance standard must be carefully written, specifically describing the result to be attained. A performance standard that does not clearly define a desired result is of little use during the project consistency review process. Although performance standards provide the greatest flexibility in determining how a policy goal is achieved, development interests have expressed concern that performance standards may give state and federal permit review staff too much latitude in interpreting policy compliance.

### **Design Standards**

A design standard specifies how or where a thing is to be built. It may give measurements, or load-bearing requirements, or height limits. Design Standards are very specific, but they can also be limiting. Design Standards are appropriately used when specific information is known and widely agreed upon.

### **Best Management Practices**

A Best Management Practice (BMP) describes how something is to be done, guiding the methods and processes used in development. Best management practices are ideally suited to manage certain types of issues where specific Design Standards may not exist or where those standards may not be effectively applied. Best Management Practices are enforceable and are often used as a uniform standard to manage the design of roads, to control erosion, and to manage non-point source pollution. Like design standards, BMP's are useful because they are specific. If specificity locks a project reviewer into one set of actions that may not be appropriate for a given project, it can be a pitfall, as well as a plus. This type of policy is useful

when there is agreement by experts on specific management practices, and there is a desire for them to be more widely used. This approach may be appropriate where design or performance standards may not have been determined.

Design Standards and Best Management Practices clearly instruct permit applicant on the steps and procedures to be used in a project. These approaches do not, however, provide an opportunity for use of other alternative strategies or technological improvements to achieve the same result without formally changing the policy wording (e.g., to prevent entrainment of fish in water pump intakes, water intake structures on anadromous fish streams must use 1/8-inch mesh screen to prevent entrainment of juvenile fish).

### **Best Management Practices Plans**

Best Management Practices Plans (BMP Plans) combine the flexibility of Performance Standards with the enforceability of Best Management Practices. In a BMP Plan, the project applicant first describes a goal or performance standard. The applicant then produces a description of those actions that will be taken to achieve the standard. The BMP Plan is submitted for review and approval. If the applicant fails to implement the actions described in the plan, the plan becomes enforceable.

The policies presented in this section primarily identify Performance Standards and Best Management Practice Plans. These approaches allow a degree of flexibility to accommodate the protection of important resource values and uses, and provide for orderly and balanced use of coastal resources.

## **Advisory Policies**

By choosing to prepare a district coastal management program, the AWCRSA is taking advantage of a forum to work with state and federal agencies and private landowners to affect the direction of future growth within the region. While coastal management cannot accomplish all of the coastal management objectives of the AWCRSA, advisory policies, also referred to as administrative policies, can provide additional direction for government, private industry, the AWCRSA Board, and community efforts to attain those objectives.

Under AS 46.40.210(7), a district coastal management plan is a plan that sets out policies and standards, including enforceable policies, "to guide public and private uses of land and water within that district ..." Advisory policies are policies that may not meet one or more tests of enforceability contained in state statute, but that can help guide coastal uses. Advisory policies are not enforceable and cannot be used to require conditions or stipulations on projects during the project consistency review process. Advisory policies perform several functions:

- Assist the AWCRSA Board in making decisions about coastal resources or issues
- Offer an implementation option, although not a requirement, for state or federal agencies in decision making
- Support other planning efforts within the AWCRSA
- Provide direction to the AWCRSA in implementing its coastal management program
- Support increased cooperation between the community, private industry, and state and local governments



## **Local Permitting**

The Enforceable Policies and Best Management Practices Plans in this document do not apply to land uses and activities in areas where local land use regulations are in effect and the use or activity only requires a local municipal permit.

## **Subject Uses, Activities And Designations**

All land and water uses and activities occurring on municipal, state, and private lands, and federal actions which directly affect coastal resources within the Aleutians West CRSA, are subject to the district coastal management program. These uses, activities and designations are called subject uses, activities and designations and include:

- Land and water uses within the coastal boundary which require approvals, including permits and certifications from municipal, state, or federal governments
- Resource leasing activities that require federal, municipal, or state permits and land disposals, regional plans, and community plans

These actions encompass permitted or authorized activities that are subject to Categorical Approval, General Concurrence, and Individual Project Review under the ACMP consistency review procedures (Chapter 5, Implementation). Regulated land and water uses and activities occurring on state and private lands that directly affect coastal resources within Aleutians West CRSA are subject to the policies contained in this program. Although federal lands are excluded from the coastal area, uses and activities occurring on federal land that directly affect the coastal area and its resources are subject to this program.

However, the uses and activities subject to a district plan are “limited to those included in 11 AAC 112.200 – 11 AAC 112.240, 11 AAC 112.260 – 11 AAC 112.280, and (b) – (i) of this section.” The land and water uses and activities that may be addressed by a coastal district plan and subject to that plan are:

1. coastal development
2. designated natural hazard areas
3. coastal access
4. designated sites for energy facilities
5. utility routes and facilities
6. sand and gravel extraction
7. designated subsistence use areas
8. transportation routes and facilities
9. designated recreation areas
10. designated tourism areas
11. designated sites for commercial fishing and seafood processing facilities
12. designated important habitat
13. designated history or prehistory sites

## Proper And Improper Uses

The Alaska Regulations under 11 AAC 114.260 require that district programs must identify uses and activities, including uses of state concern, that are considered proper and improper within the coastal area. The Aleutians West CRSA has determined that there are no uses that are categorically prohibited within the coastal boundary. Proper and improper uses are determined by their compliance with policy requirements.

All land and water uses and activities are considered proper as long as they comply with the policies of the AWCRSA coastal management program, ACMP standards, and applicable federal and state regulations. A land or water use or activity will be considered improper if it is inconsistent with ACMP standards or the policies of this program, or it does not comply with or cannot be made to comply with the applicable federal and state regulations.

## Uses Of State Concern

Many land and water uses and activities have regional, statewide, or national importance. Such uses can significantly affect the long-term interest of Alaska and the nation. They are called Uses of State Concern, and must be recognized by the AWCRSA coastal management program and not restricted without good cause.

### Defining Uses of State Concern

*Uses of State Concern are defined in AS 46.40.210 (8), Definitions:*

*“uses of state concern” means those land and water uses which would significantly affect the long-term public interest “uses of state concern” include:*

- (A) Uses of national interest, including the use of resources for the siting of ports and major facilities which contribute to meeting national energy needs, construction and maintenance of navigational facilities and systems, resource development of federal land, and national defense and related security facilities that are dependent upon coastal locations;*
- (B) Uses of more than local concern, including those land and water uses which confer significant environmental, social, cultural, or economic benefits or burdens beyond a single coastal resource district;*
- (C) The siting of major energy facilities, activities pursuant to a state oil and gas lease, or large-scale industrial or commercial development activities which are dependent on a coastal location and which, because of the magnitude of their effect on the economy of the state or the surrounding area, are reasonably likely to present issues of more than local significance;*
- (D) Facilities serving statewide or inter-regional transportation and communication needs; and*
- (E) Uses in areas established as state parks or recreational areas under AS 41.21 or as state game refuges, game sanctuaries, or critical habitat areas under AS 16.20.*

### Identifying Issues of State Concern

"A district plan must describe uses that are of greater than local significance and that occur within its district boundary." Resources and resource use are described in the *AWCRSA Resource Inventory and Analysis and Resource Inventory Atlas* (2002).

## Restricting Uses of State Concern

"The "Uses of State Concern" section of a district plan should identify any restrictions to Uses of State Concern. If a plan does restrict a Use of State concern, it must identify the use and explain the need for the restriction. Restrictions usually are in the form of policies that limit a use in order to protect another use or resource." At this time, the AWCRSA Board has not identified any restrictions to Uses of State Concern within the coastal district boundary. The Board could develop restrictions in the future, if the needs change.

## Definitions

A number of the terms used in coastal management have specific regulatory or procedural meaning. To clarify the intent of the coastal management policies, the following definitions apply to language used in the program policies. Where the definition is the same as given in State law, refer to Appendix C for a complete listing of terms.

**ACMP** is the Alaska Coastal Management Program.

**Active floodplain** has the same meaning as given in State law.

**ADF&G** is the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**AMSA** is an Area Meriting Special Attention and has the same meaning as given in state law.

**Avoid**, Minimize and Mitigate has the definition as given in state law.

**Development** means any development that requires a state or federal permit.

**Compatible** means uses that do not restrict or exclude other or existing uses.

**Consistency** has the same meaning as given in state law.

**Cultural Resources** includes deposits, structures, ruins, sites, buildings, graves and artifacts of antiquity which provide information pertaining to the historic or prehistoric life ways of people.

**DEC** is the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

**DNR** is the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

**Feasible and prudent** means consistent with sound engineering practice and not causing environmental, social, or economic problems that outweigh the public benefit to be derived from compliance with the standard which is modified by the term "feasible and prudent".

**Floating facilities** are defined as a boat, houseboat, barge, or any structure located on a raft, whether the facility is powered or not, that is moored or anchored in any certain location, excluding harbors and marinas, for a period of 14 days or more, and is not primarily used for transportation during that period.

**Natural Hazard** Has the same meaning as given in State law. In the western Aleutians region, natural hazards include earthquakes and seismic instability, volcanic activity, avalanche zones, land slide zones, flooding from rivers and along the coastline from storm surges, waves from tsunamis, and high winds.

**Hazardous substances** are defined by the Department of Environmental Conservation

**Important habitats** are defined and designated in accordance with State law.

**Maintain** means to provide for continuation of current conditions and functions.

**Mitigate and Mitigation** are defined and applied in accordance with State law.

**Ordinary high water** means a line on the shore of fresh water bodies (lakes and rivers) and has the same meaning as given in State law.

Mean high water is applicable to tidelands and has the same meaning as given in State law.

**Practicable** has the same meaning as given in State law.

**Resource agency** has the same meaning as given in State law.

**Shall** means mandatory; it requires a course of action or set of conditions to be achieved.

**Should** states intent for a course of action or set of conditions to be achieved. This implies that case-specific discretion may be applied for achieving the intent of the action.

**Subject uses** is a description of the land and water uses and activities that are subject to the district program.

**Water body** means lakes, ponds, drainages, rivers, streams, estuaries, and marine waters.

**Water-dependent** has the same meaning as given in State law.

**Water-related** has the same meaning as given in State law.

## Coastal Management Policies

Preparation of the AWCERSA policies included five major steps accomplished during development of the district program:

1. Evaluation and application of the AWCERSA Issues, Goals, and Objectives (2001);
2. Review of the *AWCERSA Resource Inventory and Resource Analysis* (2001);
3. Review, evaluation, and modification of appropriate policies from other coastal management programs;
4. Review of the Alaska Coastal Management Program Standards and District planning requirements, and organization of the policies to reflect these requirements (11 AAC 112 and 11 AAC 114);
5. Preparation of issue-specific policies; and
6. Consideration of “adequately addressed” criteria.

The following enforceable and advisory policies are grouped by subject categories preceded by a summary statement regarding adequacy and identifying designated areas where applicable. Advisory policies are clearly identified in the policy title.

### A. Coastal Development Enforceable Policies

Prioritization of Uses. The statewide coastal development standard directs coastal districts to prioritize uses and activities in the coastal area based on whether the uses are water dependent, water-related, or neither but without an inland alternative. These terms are broad in scope and an enforceable policy that defines which uses or activities in the district fall into each of the three categories is making the broad standard more specific.

Placement of Structures and Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material. The coastal development standard requires compliance “at a minimum” with COE regulations, 33 C.F.R. Parts 320-323. These regulations provide the COE with general permitting authority over the placement of structures and discharge of dredged or fill material into navigable waters; the laws are broad in scope and general in their application. The enforceable policies that relate to this standard provide more specificity to ensure that local issues are addressed.

Floating Facilities. Though state and federal agencies require permits prior to approving floating facilities, the laws are broad in scope and general in their application. For example, the laws do not address restrictions based on the location of the facilities. In some cases, there may be a tradition or policy of denying or conditioning permits adjacent to areas such as wilderness areas or anadromous fish streams, but a policy does not carry the force of law. In addition, there is a COE general permit (89-4N) for floating houses, but the permit conditions are not law and cannot be relied upon to always be there. Consequently, additional specificity in district enforceable policies for floating facilities ensures that local issues are addressed.

## **A-1 Water-Dependent and Water-Related Activities**

When considering land and water use applications and permits for coastal development, seafood processing and integrated support facilities shall be considered water-dependent uses.

## **A-2 Dredge and Fill Requirements**

Projects that involve filling in, coastal waters shall be located, designed, constructed, operated, and maintained, and shall implement a Best Managements Practices Plan to limit the extent of direct disturbance to the minimum area necessary to accommodate the proposed purpose or use.

## **A-3 Disposal of Dredged Materials**

Dredged materials placed on tidelands shall not cause significant adverse changes to shoreline processes, such as sediment transport, coastal erosion, and deposition patterns. Offshore disposal of dredge material shall avoid significant adverse impacts to coastal resources.

## **A-4 Floating Facilities**

Placement of floating facilities in coastal waters within the AWCRSA shall be sited and operated to use anchoring methods which are able to anchor the facility safely during high winds and extreme tides.

# **Coastal Development Advisory Policies**

## **A-5 Monitoring and Compliance (Advisory Policy)**

It is important that state and federal agencies responsible for implementing the program policies through the coastal consistency process provide, where feasible and prudent, timely monitoring of authorizations, stipulations, and special conditions. The AWCRSA will cooperatively work with agencies, providing local observations of compliance with permits, plans, and authorizations.

## **A-6 Coordination With Municipal Regulations (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA will encourage the use of municipal codes and ordinances, as well as procedures expressed in Chapter 6 of this plan, to implement the AWCRSA Coastal Management Program.

## **A-7 Optimum Location of Development (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA will assist developers with the identification of sites suitable for industrial and commercial development that satisfy industrial requirements, meet safety standards, protect coastal resources, important fish and wildlife habitat, subsistence activities, and maintain environmental quality.

## **A-8 Large Scale Land Development and Subdivision (Advisory Policy)**

Before development of parcels of land of 10 acres or more, government agencies and private groups involved should refer to the AWCRSA coastal management plan to determine:

- a) fish and wildlife resource and habitat concerns;
- b) personal use and subsistence resource uses and access in the area;
- c) archaeological, historic, and culture sites; and
- d) surface drainage and water quality concerns.

#### **A-9 Public Notice and Involvement Opportunities (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA, will provide public notification of the following items:

- a) permit applications being reviewed under state and federal regulatory processes;
- b) proposed changes in regulations that effect the coastal area; and
- c) proposed planning activities.

#### **A-10 Harbor Management Plans (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA will work with communities, Native Corporations and tribal organizations, and state and federal agencies in the development of Harbor Management plans

#### **A-11 Compatibility (Advisory Policy)**

To the extent feasible and prudent, activities on and uses of coastal lands and waters shall, minimize conflict with and impact on adjacent land and water uses.

#### **A-12 Navigation Obstructions (Advisory Policy)**

Uses and activities in coastal waters should meet the following requirements: developments, structures, and facilities, including buoys sited in navigable waters, should be visibly marked and placed, constructed, operated and maintained in a manner to minimize navigation hazards or obstructions to other uses of coastal habitats.

#### **A-13 Continued Funding of Coastal Management (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA and the State of Alaska shall work to maintain funding of the AWCRSA coastal management program as the best means of local involvement in state and federal decision making.

### **B. Habitats Enforceable Policies**

The statewide standard for important habitat applies to important habitat designated under 11 AAC 114.250(h). An area that is designated as important habitat must be managed for the special productivity of the habitat in accordance with enforceable policies that are developed to determine whether a specific land or water use or activity will be allowed. Enforceable policies related to this designation provide specific measures for meeting the management requirements for designated important habitat. Other state and federal laws that deal with the type of habitat or issues addressed in these enforceable policies are broad in scope and general in their application.

Anadromous fish waters as catalogued by the State of Alaska and adjacent riparian management areas as described in the Statewide standard are designated important habitat. (policy B-1)

Coastal waters under state jurisdiction surrounding federal refuges, parks and wilderness areas are designated important habitat. (policy B-2)

### **B-1 Anadromous Fish Waters**

With the exception of water-dependent structures, uses involving the research, protection, or enhancement of anadromous fish or their habitats, and approved transportation and utility crossings, no development, alteration of natural vegetation, or land clearing shall take place within a minimum distance of 25 feet from the ordinary high water mark of anadromous fish waters (fresh waters). Activities excepted above within 25 feet from the ordinary high water mark shall be constructed and used in a manner which minimizes significant adverse impacts to fish and wildlife habitat. Where practicable, additional setback distances may be required on a site-specific basis in consultation with the resource agencies to protect sensitive fish and wildlife habitats.

The following criteria will be considered in evaluating the need for setback variations:

- a) the sensitivity of anadromous fish using the site;
- b) the nature of the proposed activity and anticipated disturbance, including construction and operation, and the size and configuration of the development with respect to the water body;
- c) the characteristics and function of existing riparian vegetation; and
- d) the slope, soil type, and soil stability at the proposed activity site as it affects the potential for erosion problems.

### **B-2 Geophysical Surveys and In-water Use of Explosives**

Geophysical surveys shall, to the extent practicable, be located, designed, and conducted to avoid disturbances to fish and wildlife populations, designated important habitats, and designated subsistence harvest areas (see section D of this chapter). Seasonal restrictions, restrictions on the use of explosives, or restrictions relating to the type of transportation utilized in such operations may be required as necessary to mitigate potential adverse impacts. Geophysical surveys in fresh and marine waters supporting fish or wildlife shall use energy sources such as air-guns, gas exploders, or other sources that have been demonstrated to minimize harm to fish and wildlife. Limited use of explosives to obtain seismic data may be allowed, on a case-by-case basis, if the applicant demonstrates that the use of other non-explosive energy sources is not practicable.

The in-water use of explosives for purposes other than geophysical surveys shall be considered on a case by case basis after all steps have been taken to minimize impacts and when no practicable alternatives exist to meet the public need.

## **Habitats Advisory Policies**



### **B-3 Upland Habitats (Advisory Policy)**

To the extent practicable, projects or activities in upland habitats should be sited, designed, constructed, operated and maintained to retain runoff volumes. Disturbance of natural vegetation, which may cause significant adverse impacts to slope stability or productivity of important upland habitats and should be minimized.

### **B-4 Maintenance of Fish Passage and Stream Characteristics (Advisory Policy)**

Development activities, facilities, and structures should be designed, sited, constructed, operated, and maintained in a manner which does not impede or interfere with timely access to spawning streams by adult anadromous fish or in-stream movements of juvenile anadromous fish. All cross drainage structures on fish streams, including bridges and culverts, should:

- a) be sited, constructed, and maintained to avoid changes to the quality, direction or velocity of the stream flow, and sensitive and valuable aquatic habits are protected from significant adverse impacts;
- b) be adequately sized to accommodate the best available estimate of the 25-year peak discharge without significantly interfering with the volume, velocity, sediment transport, or substrate characteristics of the stream;
- c) provide for efficient passage or movements of fish upstream, downstream and in associated aquatic habitats, including wetlands; and
- d) avoid disturbance of fish spawning habitat.

### **B-5 Raptor Nest Sites (Advisory Policy)**

Development activities should avoid harming or disturbing identified nest sites for raptors, or nest sites identified during project planning or review, by timing potentially disturbing operations when raptors are not breeding or nesting, or by retaining a buffer around occupied nest sites. Bald eagle nest sites shall be protected in conformity with the Bald Eagle Protection Act (16 USC 668) and the use, size and management of bald eagle nest site buffers shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### **B-6 Bank Stabilization (Advisory Policy)**

All bank cuts, fills, or exposed earthwork adjacent to freshwater waterbodies, wetlands, or marine waters shall be stabilized to prevent erosion or sedimentation into adjoining waters during construction, operation, and following abandonment of development activities

### **B-7 Update of Resource Information (Advisory Policy)**

Due to the importance of current resource information for effective implementation of the AWCRSA coastal program, the AWCRSA Board will ensure that the Resource Inventory Atlas (Volume I) and Resource Inventory and Analysis, (Volume II) are reviewed and updated no less than every five years to reflect the most current information available for the region. Coastal resource information will include, at a minimum:

- important habitats;
- key fish and wildlife species;

- subsistence and personal use harvests;
- commercial fishing harvests and use areas;
- oil, gas and minerals; and
- geophysical hazards.

As appropriate, the Resource Analysis (Volume II) and coastal resource protection criteria provided in these policies will be revised as necessary and incorporated into the AWCRSA coastal program through the ACMP amendment process.

#### **B-8 Marine Mammal Haul-Outs and Seabird Colonies (Advisory Policy)**

Seabird colonies and haul-outs and rookeries used by marine mammals shall not be physically altered or disturbed by structures or activities in a manner that would preclude or cause significant adverse impacts with continued use of these sites by wildlife for the habitat functions which they provide.

#### **B-9 State Standards (Advisory Policy)**

The Aleutians West CRSA Coastal Management Program adopts the ACMP Standards for coastal habitats contained in 6 AAC 80.130. Development activities and facility sites shall meet, at a minimum, the criteria established under the referenced standards and State regulations, unless a greater performance standard is applicable under specific policies of the Aleutians West CRSA coastal program.

#### **B-10 Disturbance by Aircraft (Advisory Policy)**

To minimize adverse disturbances to seabird colonies, fixed-wing and helicopter aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 2,000 feet or a one-half mile horizontal distance from identified seabird colonies between May 1 and September 30. To minimize adverse disturbances to sea lion, fur seal, and harbor seal haul-out sites, fixed-wing and helicopter aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 2,000 feet or a one-half mile horizontal distance from identified haul-out sites between May 1 and December 31 for sea lions, and between March 1 and September 30 for fur and harbor seals. To minimize adverse disturbance to nesting areas of the Aleutian Canada goose, fixed-wing and helicopter aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 2,000 feet or a one-half mile horizontal distance from known nesting areas between May 1 and September 30. Currently known nesting locations include the following islands: Buldir, Agattu, Amukta, Chagulak, Nizki, Alaid, and Little Kiska.

### **C. Air, Land, And Water Quality Advisory Policies**

#### **C-1 Wastewater Discharge (Advisory Policy)**

To the extent feasible and prudent, the discharge of waste-water or other effluent into fresh or marine waters of the AWCRSA should be located in areas of least biological productivity, diversity, and sensitivity and where effluent can be controlled, contained, or effectively dispersed by currents.

#### **C-2 Environmental Protection Technology (Advisory Policy)**

Where applicable, and to the extent feasible and prudent, the applicant should develop and implement a Best Management Practices Plan for limiting the discharge of air pollutants in emissions and of water pollutants in effluents, and for storing, handling, cleanup, and disposal of oil and hazardous materials.

### **C-3 Soil Erosion (Advisory Policy)**

Project uses and activities should minimize soil erosion. Options for achieving consistency with this policy include:

- a) minimize the removal of vegetation adjacent to water bodies;
- b) stabilizing and re-vegetating disturbed soil as soon as possible;
- c) limiting land disturbance to the smallest area; and
- d) minimize runoff across denuded areas and newly stabilized areas.

### **C-4 Siltation and Sedimentation (Advisory Policy)**

Development facilities, uses, and activities should not induce sedimentation or turbidity in receiving waters in a manner which results in a significant adverse impact to aquatic productivity or habitats, marine fish, shellfish, or anadromous fish populations in marine, estuarine, or freshwater environments. Applicants shall identify in a Best Management Practices Plan the means to stabilize sediment sources and trap sediment before it leaves the construction site.

### **C-5 Storage of Petroleum and Petroleum Products (Advisory Policy)**

To the extent feasible and prudent, facilities, being permitted for the storage, processing, or treatment of 10,000 barrels or more of petroleum or petroleum products should be sited a minimum of 1,500 feet from domestic water supplies and a minimum of 200 feet from ordinary high water or MHHW of any surface waters. Impermeable berms and basins capable of retaining 115 percent of the tank capacity (or capacity of the largest tank where multiple tanks are separately valved) shall be required to minimize the potential for inadvertent pollution.

### **C-6 Planning for Cumulative Impacts (Advisory Policy)**

To provide for timely consideration of cumulative impacts on ambient air and water quality of the CRSA and to facilitate the implementation of Policies C-12 and C-13, the following actions are recommended:

- 1) Project applicants are encouraged a) to consult with the AWCERSA and authorizing agencies concerning the potential for cumulative impacts from their project, and b) during project planning, to evaluate and consider the cumulative effects of emissions or effluent discharges from their project on ambient air and water quality of the AWCERSA.
- 2) During agency planning activities and/or consultations with project applicants, agencies should a) recognize concerns for potential cumulative impacts of emissions or effluent discharges on the air and water quality of the AWCERSA, and b) incorporate appropriate cumulative impact control measures in their planning and regulatory actions.

### **C-7 Planning and Coordination (Advisory Policy)**

The Aleutians West CRSA will participate in planning processes to identify appropriate sites for the storage, transportation, treatment, or disposal of hazardous substances, or to identify responses to emergencies resulting from accidents involving hazardous substances.

### **C-8 Siting of Facilities (Advisory Policy)**

The Aleutians West CRSA will work with developers of proposed industrial facilities to evaluate emissions and effluent dispersion, and assist in the siting of industrial facilities, in accordance with the procedures identified in Chapter 5.0, Implementation.

### **C-9 Oil Spill Contingency Plans (Advisory Policy)**

The Aleutians West CRSA will participate in the development and review of oil spill contingency, spill containment, and cleanup plans, when such plans are required by federal or state statutes or regulations, in accordance with the procedures identified in Chapter 5.0, Implementation.

### **C-10 Monitoring and Compliance (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA encourages the Department of Environmental Conservation to maintain and improve monitoring and compliance capabilities appropriate for monitoring coastal management standards and for enforcement of air and water quality regulations in the AWCRSA.

### **C-11 Shoreline Developments (Advisory Policy)**

Waterfront facility designs should incorporate provisions for the proper storage, disposal, and handling of solid waste, sewage, refuse, waste oil, fuel, and other petroleum products in accordance with local, state and federal regulations.

### **C-12 Spill Containment and Cleanup Equipment (Advisory Policy)**

To the extent feasible and prudent, any petroleum or petroleum product transport, storage, or refueling operation of 5,000 gallons or more should maintain or have access to off site containment and cleanup equipment located at or near their sites of activity in the Aleutians West CRSA. Personnel trained in the use and maintenance of this equipment shall be readily available in the event of a spill or accidental discharge incident.

### **C-13 Cumulative Impacts on Air Quality (Advisory Policy)**

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation should ensure that permits and renewals do not authorize or permit emissions from a project which, when added to ambient air quality conditions, would cumulatively cause air quality standards to be exceeded. To evaluate and consider the cumulative impacts on air quality, DEC, in consultation with the AWCRSA, may require the applicant to provide specific emissions data or modeling to evaluate the effect of their emissions on ambient air quality conditions.

### **C-14 Cumulative Impacts on Water Quality (Advisory Policy)**

Authorizing agencies should not authorize or permit discharges from a project which, when added to ambient water quality conditions, would cause water quality standards to be exceeded in the receiving waters. To evaluate and consider the cumulative impacts on water quality, authorizing agencies, in consultation with the AWCRSA, may require the applicant to provide 1) appropriate data or modeling to evaluate the effects of their discharge on the receiving waters, or 2) specific discharge data to be used by the authorizing agencies in their assessment of discharges by multiple users.

### **C-15 Hazardous Substances (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA and appropriate local authorities should be notified directly by the appropriate State and federal agencies of the transportation of materials, substances, or waste through the AWCRSA or any of its communities, that is considered hazardous. The AWCRSA shall be notified of the type, quantity, mode, and schedule of transportation or storage, when the quantity meets or exceeds the threshold level set under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

## **D. Subsistence Enforceable Policies**

The statewide subsistence standard applies when a district has designated a subsistence area. For a designated area, enforceable policies are used to determine whether a specific land or water use or activity will be allowed. Enforceable policies related to this standard provide more specific measures for protecting the subsistence resource, including ensuring access to the resource. State and federal laws that deal with subsistence relate to management of, rather than impacts to, the resource.

The enforceable policies of this section and the Statewide Subsistence Standard apply to:

- a) Unalaska Island – Broad Bay, Reese Bay and Nateekin Bay (1000' either side of the rivers to 300' offshore);
- b) state coastal waters around Umnak Island, the Pancake Islands and Adugak Island and uplands on the southwest part of Umnak island;
- c) lands and waters of the coastal zone on and around the islands of Samalga, Amutka, Seguam, and Atka and Amlia; and
- d) state coastal waters surrounding the island of Adak.

Refer to maps ESI-W01, ESI-W02, ESI-W03, ESI-W04, ESI-W05, and ESI-W06.

### **D-1 Development Impacts**

Projects in areas designated for subsistence shall be located, designed, constructed and operated to minimize impacts to subsistence resources and activities, including access.

## **Subsistence Advisory Policies**

### **D-2 Storage of Petroleum and Petroleum Products (Advisory Policy)**

To the extent practicable, facilities, being permitted for the storage, processing, or treatment of 10,000 barrels or more of petroleum or petroleum products should be sited a minimum of 1,500 feet from domestic water supplies and a minimum of 200 feet from ordinary high water or MHHW of any surface waters. Impermeable berms and basins capable of retaining 115 percent of the tank capacity (or capacity of the largest tank where multiple tanks are separately valved) shall be required to minimize the potential for inadvertent pollution.

### **D-3 Planning Processes (Advisory Policy)**

Where development activities may have a significant adverse impact on subsistence or personal use resources and activities, the AWCRSA will coordinate with affected resource users to provide a public forum through which concerns may be identified.

### **D-4 Subsistence Resource Management (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA will work with project review agencies to enhance access to, and maintain availability of, subsistence resources and uses areas by providing comments and recommendations in the project review process

### **D-5 Vessel to Vessel Transfer of Fuel (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA encourages the Coast Guard and the Department of Environmental Conservation to maintain and improve monitoring, compliance and enforcement capabilities to ensure that transport, storage, handling and refueling activities are conducted in accordance with local, state and federal regulations within designated subsistence harvest areas.

## **E. Transportation, Coastal Access and Utilities Enforceable Policies**

The statewide coastal access standard is a very broad standard. The enforceable policies related to this standard provide more specific direction for providing appropriate public access to, from, and along coastal water. No state or federal laws deal specifically with providing coastal public access.

The statewide transportation and utility routes and facilities standards are limited to addressing impacts to surface and groundwater drainage patterns, wildlife transit and traditional access. Enforceable policies that relate to these standards provide more specific measures to address route and facilities concerns not included in the statewide standards. Other state and federal laws that deal with the permitting of transportation and utility routes and facilities are broad in scope and general in their application. This includes state law related to fish stream crossings; AS 41.14.840 gives the deputy commissioner the discretion to require efficient fish passage, it is not mandatory and there are no specific requirements identified. Consequently, additional specificity in district enforceable policies for fish stream crossings ensures that local issues are addressed.

### **E-1 Maintaining Coastal Access**

Elements of coastal access include roads, waterways, trails, portages, campsites, picnic sites, and marine anchorages.

### **E-2 Shoreline Setback and Consolidation**

To the extent practicable, transportation, access and utility corridors and their integrated support facilities, except for facilities or activities that are directly water dependent, shall be set back 25 feet horizontally from the ordinary high water line of inland lakes and streams and Mean High Water (MHW) line of marine waters. Transportation, access and utility corridors, and their

integrated support facilities, shall be sited, designed, constructed, and operated, using the following standards:

- a) to the extent practicable, transportation corridors and integrated support facilities shall be consolidated; and,
- b) to the extent practicable, road, utility, and pipeline crossings of anadromous fish streams shall be minimized and consolidated at a single location to reduce multiple impacts to an individual drainage.

## **Transportation, Coastal Access and Utilities Advisory Policies**

### **E-3 Refuse Disposal (Advisory Policy)**

Approved sites for refuse disposal shall be to the extent practicable, located a minimum of 1,500 feet from domestic water sources and a minimum of 200 feet from surface waters

### **E-4 Sewage Disposal (Advisory Policy)**

Where practicable, sewage treatment ponds and discharge locations shall be setback a minimum of 1,500 feet from private and public drinking water systems and a minimum of 200 feet from surface waters. Setback requirements do not apply to marine outfalls for sewage which has been treated to meet state and federal water quality standards for discharge.

### **E-5 Planning Processes (Advisory Policy)**

The state and federal government should provide the AWCERSA, local governments, and affected landowners with the opportunity to participate in any proposed planning processes for transportation and utility facilities, services, corridors, and integrated support facilities in accordance with the procedures identified in Chapter 5.0, Implementation.

### **E-6 Public Access (Advisory Policy)**

Prior to disposal of municipal, State, and Federal lands, public access routes shall be considered.

## **F. Fish and Seafood Processing Advisory Policies**

### **F-1 Optimum Resource Use (Advisory Policy)**

Maintenance and enhancement of fisheries should be given high priority in reviewing any activities which might adversely impact important fisheries habitat, fish migration routes, or the subsistence, recreational or commercial harvest of fish.

### **F-2 Development (Advisory Policy)**

Development should incorporate appropriate designs and measures to minimize potential significant adverse impacts to fisheries resources, recreational fishing, enhancement projects, subsistence or personal use fishing, or commercial fishing.

### **F-3 Disposal of Seafood Processing Wastes (Advisory Policy)**

The construction of new facilities or the modification of existing seafood processing facilities should avoid the discharge of processing wastes into marine waters in excess of the assimilative capacity of those waters to accept discharges without significant adverse impacts on water quality or habitat productivity, or in a manner that attracts wildlife or creates a threat to fish and wildlife or human health and safety.

### **F-4 Minimization of Seafood Processing Waste Discharges (Advisory Policy)**

To the extent feasible and prudent, on shore and floating seafood processors should develop and implement a Best Management Practices Plan for recovery and efficient utilization of processing wastes

### **F-5 Fisheries Enhancement and Habitat Improvement (Advisory Policy)**

The Aleutians West CRSA encourages cooperative efforts by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, federal agencies, private landowners, and aquaculture organizations to improve fish habitat and fish passage, and to institute sustainable, new commercial fisheries in the Aleutians West CRSA. Fisheries programs should strive to maintain, restore, develop, and/or enhance the natural biological productivity of anadromous fish streams in the coastal area of the Aleutians West CRSA. Lands and waters in areas identified by state or federal agencies for fisheries enhancement programs will be reviewed by the AWCRSA to determine compatibility with enhancement and habitat improvement programs.

### **F-6 Expanded Commercial Fisheries and Mariculture (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA supports mariculture and aquaculture, and will serve as an information resource in identifying suitable sites. The AWCRSA also encourages state and federal fisheries management agencies to evaluate the potential for expanded commercial fishery harvests in the region.

### **F-7 Commercial Fishing Industry Development (Advisory Policy)**

The Aleutians West CRSA supports projects designed to increase the diversification and development of the district's commercial fishing industry. Development of additional onshore seafood processing facilities and other support facilities is encouraged, provided the activity complies with the policies in this program and other applicable laws and regulations.

## **G. Natural Hazard Areas Enforceable Policies**

The natural hazards statewide standard provides general appropriate measures for the siting and operation of activities within designated areas. In addition, 11 AAC 114.270(g) allows districts to adopt enforceable policies that will be used to determine whether a use or activity will be allowed within a designated areas. Enforceable policies related to this standard provide specific measures to help minimize impacts within designated areas and to ensure that local issues are addressed. Policies also identify specific disallowed uses within designated areas and the criteria that will be used to determine whether a use will be allowed. Other state and



federal laws that deal with development activities in hazard areas are broad in scope and general in their application.

The entire Aleutian Trench is an earthquake zone and as such the area within the boundaries of the AWCRSA is a designated Natural Hazard Area. In addition, the climate, topography and soils contribute to erosion-prone conditions throughout the chain. (Refer to Volume II, Chapter 3).

### **G-1 Consultation**

The Local Emergency Planning Committee shall be consulted when development is proposed in a natural hazard area.

### **G-2 Erosion**

To the extent practicable, development activities shall minimize impacts on existing vegetative cover and avoid contributing to increased geophysical hazards in erosion-prone areas.

- a) Where development necessitates removal of vegetation, erosion shall be minimized through replanting or by other appropriate erosion control measures.
- b) Resource extraction activities shall be sited and constructed to minimize accelerated coastal erosion that could result in the creation of geophysical hazards.

## **Natural Hazard Areas Advisory Policies**

### **G-3 Emergency Response Program (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA will work with Local Emergency Planning Committees to develop an emergency response program in case of a major geophysical event in the AWCRSA region.

## **H. Recreation Enforceable Policies**

In order to have enforceable policies related to recreation, a district must designate an area for that use. For a designated recreation area, the “matter of local concern” test does not apply unless a proposed enforceable policy addresses a matter regulated or authorized by some other state or federal law not enumerated in the statewide standards. State and federal laws that deal with recreation are broad in scope and general in application; district enforceable policies enacted for a designated area provide specific management measures for addressing uses or activities within the area.

The following areas are designated recreational use areas:

- a) Unalaska Island – Broad Bay, Reese Bay, Nateekin Bay, Morse Bay, Kaletkin Bay and Humpy Cove (1000’ either side of the rivers to 300’ offshore);
- b) Beaches located within incorporated boundaries of Atka and Nikolski village townsites IRA (refer to maps ESI-W01, ESI-W03 and ESI-W05).

## **H-1 Protection of Recreation Values**

Projects, activities, and uses located within designated recreation areas shall be located, designed, constructed, and operated to minimize adverse impacts to the physical, biological and cultural resources upon which the recreation depends.

## **H-2 Conflict Mitigation**

Where practicable, projects within designated recreation areas shall be located, designed, constructed and operated in a manner that minimizes conflicts with competing recreational uses of the area. If minimization of such conflicts is impracticable, alternative recreation opportunities or access shall be provided by the applicant to the extent practicable.

## **Recreation Advisory Policies**

### **H-3 Open Space Areas (Advisory Policy)**

Management of publicly-owned shorelines, beaches, and upland areas that possess high value recreation, scenic, wildlife, or environmental quality values should include consideration for public open space or recreation areas.

### **H-4 Planning Processes (Advisory Policy)**

Recreational planners for federal and state lands should provide an opportunity for the Aleutians West CRSA to participate in recreation and tourism planning.

### **H-5 Community Recreation Plans (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA will serve as an information resource for local governments and private landowners to prepare or update community recreation plans that:

- a) assess the demand and need for recreation resources and facilities;
- b) identify current recreation resources and use areas, including access to those areas;
- c) develop recommendations for maintaining or enhancing existing areas and resources;
- d) develop or acquire new recreation areas and resources; and
- e) identify opportunities for developing tourism activities.

## **I. Historic, Prehistoric, and Archaeological Resources Enforceable Policies**

District enforceable policies for historic, prehistoric and archeological resources apply in areas designated by a district. Enforceable policies related to this standard provide the specific management measures for addressing uses or activities within the designated area.

Enforceable policies in this section are applicable to designated resources as identified and described on the Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (refer to Volume II, Chapter 1).

## **I-1 Cultural and Historic Resource Areas**

The evaluation and protection of historic and archaeological values of an area proposed for development shall be part of project planning. The developer shall:

- a) evaluate the potential for encountering historic and archaeological resources by contacting the Museum of the Aleutians and the State Historic Preservation Office;
- b) report observations of undocumented cultural resources to the landowner, State Historic Preservation Office, and the Museum of the Aleutians.

## **I-2 Resource Protection**

Uses and activities which may adversely affect cultural resource areas shall comply with the following standards:

- a) to the extent practicable, archaeological, prehistoric, and historic resources shall be protected from significant adverse impacts caused by surrounding uses and activities;
- b) artifacts of significant historic, prehistoric, or archaeological importance shall not be disturbed during project development unless the State Historic Preservation Office in consultation with the landowner authorizes such disturbance.
- c) where previously undiscovered artifacts or areas of historic, prehistoric, or archaeological importance are encountered during development, the discovery shall be protected from further disturbance pending evaluation by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Museum of the Aleutians.

## **Historic, Prehistoric, and Archaeological Resources Advisory Policies**

### **I-3 Areas of Likely Resource Occurrence (Advisory Policy)**

In areas where historic, prehistoric and archaeological resources are likely to occur, the developer should consult with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Museum of the Aleutians.

### **I-4 Removal of Artifacts (Advisory Policy)**

Archaeological and historical artifacts on lands within the CRSA should not be removed without permission from the landowner and the State Historic Preservation Office.

### **I-5 Data Requirements (Advisory Policy)**

Prior to any archaeological project within the district, the Aleutians West CRSA will seek adequate public notification and information concerning the purpose of the project, the proposed area of investigation, the timing of the project, and the anticipated impacts to coastal resources and use areas.

## **I-6 Cultural Resource Planning (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA will serve as an information resource for representatives of federal, state, and local governments and private landowners to encourage further archaeological and historical research, inventories, documentation, and preservation activities for sites in the AWCRSA. This expanded information base will be used to facilitate mitigation of conflicts between development activities and resource uses and to protect archaeological and historic resources.

## **J. Energy Facilities Advisory Policies**

### **J-1 Oil and Gas Development (Advisory Policy)**

Prior to conducting activities associated with seismic surveys, exploration, or development of oil and gas resources, developers proposing activities (including support activities) that will be based within the AWCRSA are encouraged to:

- a) minimize significant adverse impacts to the environment and the socioeconomic resources of the area; and
- b) where applicable, develop and implement a Best Management Practices Plan for minimizing interference with commercial fishing and subsistence activities.

### **J-2 Alternate Energy Resources (Advisory Policy)**

The Aleutians West CRSA encourages evaluation and development of environmentally-acceptable alternatives or supplements to fossil fuel power generation facilities, such as hydro, and geothermal, and wind driven power production .

### **J-3 Oil and Gas Storage and Trans-shipment Facilities (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA will serve as an information source for oil and gas development interests, local, state, and federal governments, and private landowners in the planning, siting, and operation of storage, transfer or trans-shipment facilities for oil, gas, and other petroleum products within the AWCRSA.

## **K. Sand and Gravel Enforceable Policies**

The statewide sand and gravel extraction standard is a very broad standard. Enforceable policies related to this standard provide specificity for extraction activities. Other state or federal laws that deal with permitting of sand and gravel extraction are broad in scope and general in their application.

### **K-1 Siting of Material Sources**

To the extent practicable, sources of sand, gravel, rock and other construction materials shall be approved in the following sequence:

- a) existing approved gravel pits or quarries operated in compliance with state and federal authorizations;
- b) reuse of material from abandoned development area, unless reuse could cause more environmental damage than non-use;

- c) new upland sites; and
- d) beaches that are not within designated important habitats or subsistence areas.

## **K-2 Sand and Gravel Extraction Operation**

Sand and gravel mining operations in floodplains shall be located and designed to minimize adverse changes to channel hydraulics and the potential for channel diversion through the extraction site.

## **K-3 Overburden Disposal**

Whenever practicable, overburden in upland areas shall be saved and replaced on the disturbed area to conform to the natural topography as part of the reclamation process.

## **K-4 Reclamation and Restoration**

For all upland and floodplain sand and gravel extraction sites, a reclamation plan shall be developed. At a minimum, a reclamation plan shall include the following elements, as applicable:

- a) Topsoil and overburden shall be stored above the 25-year floodplain of watercourses.
- b) At the end of each mining season, all disturbed areas, shall be regraded to stable slopes. Within mean annual floodplains, regrading to ground contours which will not entrap fish nor significantly alter stream hydraulics shall occur at the end of each operating season. Permitted settling ponds and other essential facilities, including diversions of streams, may be retained in place until completion of their use.
- c) At the completion of gravel extraction, all disturbed areas shall be stabilized and re-vegetated to minimize adverse effects to important resources. Restoration shall include the following:
  - (1) all disturbed areas shall be graded to stable slopes that blend with the natural topography;
  - (2) erosion control measures shall be implemented as appropriate to stabilize the site;
  - (3) areas designated for re-vegetation shall be covered with topsoil to encourage establishment of native plant species;
  - (4) All re-vegetation should occur as soon as possible with indigenous plant species when practicable.
  - (5) where material sites which are excavated below groundwater may have value as habitat for waterfowl or fish, consultation with the resource agencies on the final design and schedule of the restoration plan.

## **Mining and Mineral Processing Advisory Policies**

### **K-5 Siting of Material Sources (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA will serve as an information source for applicants proposing activities that require development of new sites for extraction of sand, gravel, or other construction materials to ensure appropriate siting and operation of material sites.

#### **K-6 Siting of Mineral Extraction Projects (Advisory Policy)**

The AWCRSA will serve as an information source the mining industry, local, state, and federal governments, and private landowners in the planning, siting, and operation of new development projects to insure appropriate siting, design, and operation standards for mineral extraction projects.

## **4.0 Organization**

### **Introduction**

The AWCRSA was established in the unorganized borough in the Western Aleutians in 1987. It is governed by a seven-member board of elected citizens representing the residents of the AWCRSA. The AWCRSA is one of 35 coastal districts in Alaska that participate in Alaska's Coastal Management Program.

### **AWCRSA Board**

The AWCRSA Board is responsible for local implementation of the coastal management program. They also are a resource for the Program Director and serve in an oversight capacity. The AWCRSA supports the early involvement of local residents toward the goal of promoting activities that are mutually agreeable to all affected parties in the region. There are three procedures that aid in this effort:

- Participate in pre-development conference reviews for proposed major projects;
- Provide an opportunity for affected communities and local landowners to participate in consistency recommendations, conferences, and program amendments;
- Review draft consistency recommendations for each project prior to forwarding to the coordinating agency.

### **Program Director**

The Program Director performs several key functions to ensure that communication, information transfer, and consistency determinations are processed expeditiously. The Program Director will function under the direction of the AWCRSA Board in representing their interests in coastal affairs. Consistency recommendations approved by the AWCRSA Board and communication of these recommendations will be through the Program Director as staff to the Board. As the point of contact for state agencies, the Program Director must:

- Ensure that information has been received in a timely manner by the parties involved in the consistency process.
- Determine if the information received is adequate for a consistency recommendation.
- Decide which projects require Board review and alert Board members to projects which have great significance to the coastal area; routine reviews are coordinated by the Program Director.
- Evaluate project impacts against the plan policies.
- Develop draft consistency recommendations and coordinate mitigating measures for the AWCRSA Board.
- Disseminate feedback from the local contacts and other interested parties to the Board for their consideration in the consistency recommendation.
- Prepare and submit a district consistency recommendation in a timely manner.
- Provide staff support for AWCRSA Board activities related to coastal management and keep the board advised of activities.
- Administer the coastal program as required by the district's ACMP grant agreement.

## 5.0 Implementation

### Introduction

The AWCRSA has developed an implementation program that will ensure that the region's communities, major landowners, coastal industries and developers, and state and federal permitting agencies understand the process and authorities by which proposed activities are:

- Reviewed for their consistency with the AWCRSA Coastal Management Plan
- Monitored and enforced for compliance with permit conditions and stipulations associated with coastal management

Implementation of the AWCRSA Coastal Management Program relies on continuing discussion among the communities, Native corporations, affected landowners, state and federal agencies, and private industry. Only through open communication can coastal management balance local, state and national interests.

### Consistency and When it is Determined

It is important to understand how a coastal management plan is used to guide activities that take place in coastal lands and waters. Making a "consistency determination" is the legal process for providing this guidance. "Consistency" means that certain actions initiated or permitted by state and federal agencies must comply (or be consistent) with the policies of the ACMP, including enforceable policies that are part of a district coastal management plan that has been approved by the state and federal government.

The process of obtaining state or federal permits for a proposed activity may include a review of the activity's consistency with a district coastal management program. When an agency reviews an application for a permit, it reviews the proposed activity against its own and other regulatory requirements. An activity that does not meet regulatory requirements may not be approved unless it is modified. If the proposed activity meets all regulatory requirements, including coastal management, a permit will be issued and the project may proceed assuming all the required state and federal permits are in place. The AWCRSA is one of several review participants in the consistency determination process. Other review participants may include, the applicant, the public and the three state resource agencies: Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and the Office of Project Management and Permitting in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The consistency review process and the role of the AWCRSA are discussed in more detail in subsequent sections.

### What Determines Consistency

The AWCRSA coastal management plan receives its authority from the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended, which allows states to develop their own coastal management programs. The Alaska Coastal Management Act of 1977 as amended creates local coastal management districts and allows them to prepare local coastal management plans.



Coastal districts may develop enforceable policies that supplement the more general statewide policies of the Alaska Coastal Management Program in a manner that best reflects local issues, goals, and objectives. When a district plan is approved and adopted by the State, the Alaska Coastal Management Program is amended to include the plan. Through local districts, residents can develop, within certain guidelines, the policies that state agencies will use in making consistency determinations on permit applications.

The policies presented in Chapter 4.0 of this plan, in conjunction with the state standards, form the basis for consistency determinations by federal and state agencies, and consistency recommendations by the AWCRSA Board and staff. These policies are considered the enforceable rules for the purpose of program implementation. The plan policies apply to all subject uses and activities taking place on lands and waters within the AWCRSA coastal area. Through the existing Coastal Consistency Review process, the project developer must assure the AWCRSA and the State of Alaska that the proposed project will comply with applicable plan policies. Enforceable policies from an approved coastal district plan will be applied to projects that require an ACMP review under 11 AAC 110

In addition to enforceable policies, Chapter 4 also contains advisory policies that provide additional guidance on uses and activities within the coastal zone. These advisory policies often recommend procedures outlined elsewhere in this chapter, such as Planning for Major Projects and AWCRSA Partnerships in Planning. While compliance is not required, the objective of these policies and procedures is to minimize conflict and delay through early cooperation and timely notification.

## **Framework for Implementation**

Implementation of the AWCRSA coastal management program and application of coastal management policies may also rely on local ordinances and existing federal and state regulations and planning activities. Cooperation and participation from the major public and private landowners in the AWCRSA will ensure that coastal activities are conducted in a manner consistent with the policies of this plan. The AWCRSA will solicit their involvement through education and outreach activities, including regularly scheduled public meetings, special education projects, and the AWCRSA web page.

Three mechanisms that can be used during development of local consistency recommendations are discussed in this chapter:

- The state consistency process conducted under 11 AAC 110
- Existing municipal ordinances which incorporate a consistency review process that coordinates with the AWCRSA Board
- Comprehensive planning and coordination procedures that include the participation of permit applicants and federal, state, municipal, and Native corporation land managers and resource agencies

These procedures will be used by the AWCRSA in consistency recommendations to apply policies and outline the specific guidelines, standards, time lines, and monitoring needs for certain types of activities. The district program may be amended, with approval by the State, to include portions of appropriate planning efforts that serve to enhance the AWCRSA program.

## Permits And Activities Subject To Consistency Review

The State of Alaska is required to make a determination of consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program, including enforceable policies of approved local districts, for projects that meet certain location and permit thresholds outlined in 11 AAC 110.010. A project with a listed federal or state authorization located in the coastal zone requires a review. Under certain conditions, a project outside the coastal zone may require an ACMP review if it requires a federal authorization listed in 11 AAC 110.400. Activities initiated by a federal agency require a review regardless of their location if they have reasonably foreseeable effects.

Permits subject to the ACMP are referenced in 11 AAC 110.750 on what is known as the “C List” (See Appendix C). Projects that meet the requirements of a Categorically Consistent Determination (A List) or a General Consistency Determination (B List) may not require an individual review. For example, if all activities qualify for the A or B list, an individual consistency review is not conducted. Applicants must submit a Coastal Project Questionnaire (CPQ) for a project that requires only an A or B list activity unless the A or B Listing states that a CPQ is not necessary. In addition, the coordinating agency may remove an A or B List activity from a review with concurrence from the district (11 AAC 110.700).

### A, B, and C Lists

- Categorically Consistent Determination (“A” List) - Activities that have been determined to have no significant impact in, nor significant effect on, the coastal zone.
- General Consistent Determination (“B” List) - Activities that can be made consistent with the ACMP by imposing standard stipulations.
- Individual Project Review (“C List”) – Activities that require individual project review (See Appendix C)

## Authorizations

Projects that meet the applicability requirements of 11 AAC 110.010 are subject to state and local consistency review. A local district may request notification from DNR or the coordinating agency of projects that may affect the district’s coastal resources or uses. The AWCRSA will review all “A”, “B” and “C” Lists, and may request that certain types of activities be reclassified during periodic revisions of these lists. For informational purposes, the CRSA requests notification from state coordinating agencies of all “A” and “B” list projects where permits or approvals are required within the AWCRSA.

## ADEC Separation of Permitting (“Carve-out”)

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation’s air, land, and water quality standards are the exclusive standards of the ACMP for those purposes. Issuance of DEC permits, certification, approvals, and authorizations establishes consistency with the ACMP program for those activities of a proposed project subject to those permits, certifications, approvals, or authorizations. A project that includes an activity subject to a DEC authorization on the C list may be subject to a coordinated review if the project includes a different activity that is not subject to a DEC authorization but is the subject of an enforceable district policy or another C-listed authorization. However, the specific activities subject to the DEC authorization are not within the scope of those project activities to be reviewed.

In the case of a DEC single agency review, the scope of review is limited to an activity that is the subject of a district enforceable policy. DEC Policy Guidance No. 2003-001, January 7, 2004, contains the actual procedure by which DEC will participate and coordinate in ACMP consistency reviews. This document is titled “DEC Single Agency Coastal Management Consistency Review Procedures and sets forth the “Uniform Procedures for Conducting a Coastal Management Consistency Review for Projects that Only Require a (DEC) Permit or Contingency Plan Approval to Operate.”

## **Other Approvals**

Certain types of actions by state and federal agencies, known as “disposal of interests” are subject to individual consistency review if the authorization is listed in the ACMP. A disposal of interest means that the agency transfers the right to use certain lands to another party. Disposal of interest actions include land disposal and leases (including tidelands), mineral leases, oil and gas leases, timber sales, and sand and gravel sales. For state disposal of interests, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must issue a “best interest finding” on the disposal. Reviews for disposal of interests may be extended to conform to the DNR’s best interest finding schedule.

## **Native Corporation Lands**

The status of Native lands determines whether activities on those lands are subject to a coastal consistency determination. Activities on lands conveyed through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, including selections by village and regional corporations and former reserve lands, are subject to coastal management when pertinent federal, state, or local permits are required. Federal regulations exempt activities on Native allotments and Native townsite lots from state or local permit requirements. If a project on an allotment or townsite requires a federal permit or is a federal activity, however, an ACMP review would be necessary.

Additionally, if the allotment is sold or a party leasing a Native allotment proposes a project that requires a permit, the activity would then be subject to a consistency determination. Activities on allotments that are not held in trust may be subject to consistency review and state permitting.

## **Relationship Between Federal Land and Activities and Consistency Review**

While the federal Coastal Zone Management Act excludes federal lands and waters from the definition of the coastal zone, uses and activities on federal lands or waters may be subject to consistency review. The following types of actions are subject to federal consistency and must be consistent with the enforceable policies of the AWCRSA coastal management program:

- Federal activities, within or outside of the coastal zone, that have a reasonably foreseeable effect to any coastal use or resource, Activities requiring a federal authorization listed in 11 AAC 110.400 that are located within the coastal area of federal land as indicated on the Coastal Boundaries of Alaska atlas (see 15 CFR 930.53(a)(1)),
- Activities requiring exploration or development plans on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Projects initiated by a federal agency without a private applicant must be consistent to the “maximum extent practicable” with the enforceable policies of the ACMP.

## **State And Federal Permit Review And Consistency Procedures**

### **Role of the Coordinating Agency**

The coordinating agency is responsible for issuing the final consistency determinations for projects subject to ACMP consistency reviews. Coordinating agencies are either a state resource agency or the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management and Permitting. The Office of Project Management and Permitting is the coordinating agency for review of all federal activities, for projects requiring federal permits and for projects requiring permits from two or more state agencies. Where projects only require permits from one state agency, the permitting agency is also the coordinating agency for the consistency determination. When no state permits are needed, a municipality may conduct its own review of a project’s consistency with its enforceable policies.

### **Five-Step Project Approval Process**

There are five steps to the consistency review process.

#### **Step 1 –Coastal Project Questionnaire**

For projects and activities subject to a state consistency determination, the applicant must complete a Coastal Project Questionnaire (CPQ) and complete necessary permit applications. This information serves as the application packet that is necessary before initiation of the ACMP consistency review process. The CPQ helps identify which state and federal permits will be required for the project.

#### **Step 2—Coordinating Agency Receipt and Review for Completeness**

The CPQ and the application packet should be submitted to the state agency responsible for coordinating the coastal consistency review. If the project requires a permit(s) from only one state agency, the questionnaire is submitted to that agency. If the project requires permits from two or more state agencies or a permit from a federal agency, the questionnaire packet should be submitted to the Office of Project Management and Permitting. The coordinating agency receives the application packet, decides whether it is complete, and determines if the project needs to undergo a coastal consistency review.

#### **Step 3—Consistency Review**

Once the application is received by the coordinating agency and determined to be complete, the coordinating agency initiates the required public notices. The consistency review starts once all public notices have been posted or published in a newspaper.

The participants in the coastal consistency review process may include: (1) the applicant; (2) state resource agencies, and other interested state agencies; (3) the AWCRSA; (4) interested members of the public; and (5) federal agencies.

#### **Step 4—The Proposed Consistency Determination**

After receiving comments from participants during the review process, the coordinating agency resolves any issues that were raised. The coordinating agency then develops a proposed consistency determination. The proposed determination is discussed with the applicant, state resource agencies, and the AWCRSA for concurrence. The proposed consistency determination may include alternative measures that would modify the project description to make the project consistent with enforceable policies of the ACMP. The applicant may choose to adopt the alternative measures, otherwise modify the project to achieve consistency with the enforceable policies of the ACMP or abandon the project.

#### **Step 5 – The Final Determination**

A final consistency determination is issued by the coordinating agency when the applicant and the project reviewers concur with the proposed consistency determination and the applicant adopts the alternative measures, if any. The final consistency determination must be issued by the review deadline.

#### **Timeframe**

There are two types of review periods for determining consistency:

- 30-day reviews
- 50-day reviews

The type of permit required dictates whether it receives a 30 or 50-day review. A summary of the timeline for major steps under the 30- and 50-day consistency review process is presented in Table 1.

Projects sent by the state to the AWCRSA for review will operate on a 30 or 50-day review schedule. In addition, 11 AAC 110.270(a)(9) allows 30 and 50-day reviews to be extended by ten days for a project within a CRSA. Upon notification of a consistency review, the AWCRSA must request the 10-day extension from the coordinating agency if it is necessary. To the extent practical and available, the AWCRSA will use fax and email to ensure timely review of projects.

**Table 1 Major Procedures Under the 30-Day and 50-Day Consistency Review Schedules**

<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Schedule (by day)</b>	
	<b>30-Day</b>	<b>50-Day</b>
Pre-review assistance upon request.	-	-
Coordinating Agency provides public notice. (Day 1 starts on the day after the packet is determined to be complete.) 11 AAC 110.235(a)	1	1
Coordinating agency distributes notice that the review and comment period has started. The packet and a review schedule are distributed to the applicant, review participants, and any other interested party requesting project information. 11 AAC 110.235(d)	3	3
Review period. 11 AAC 110.245	1-17	1-30

Last day to request additional information necessary to concur with or object to an applicant's consistency certification. (The clock may be stopped to allow time for the applicant to provide additional information. Once requested information is provided and determined to be adequate, the clock will restart.) 11 AAC 110.240(a)	13	25
Last day for public hearing request.* 11 AAC 110.520(a)(1)(A) & (B)	17	30
Deadline for consistency comments to coordinating agency. 11 AAC 110.245	17	30
Coordinating agency distributes a proposed consistency determination to the review participants, the applicant and any other person who submitted timely ACMP comments. 11 AAC 110.255(e)	24	44
Last day for written statement requesting elevation to commissioner. 11 AAC 110.600	29	49
Issuance of the final consistency determination.** 11 AAC 110.265(c)	30	50
Consistency review must be completed after receipt of application, or the activity is presumed to be consistent.*** 11 AAC 110.265	90	90
Deadline for issuance of commissioner level consistency determination or response.**** 11 AAC 110.600(d)(2)	75	95

\*The coordinating agency must decide within seven days of receiving a request whether to hold hearing. If so, agency must provide 15-30 days of notice and a summary of hearing five days after. Parties also have the same seven days after receipt of summary to provide additional comments.

\*\* Agency permit decisions to be issued 5 days after consistency determination is received, unless there are other statutory or other regulatory requirements.

\*\*\*Exceptions include disposal of state interest in state land or resources, elevations, inadequate response for request for additional information, and applicant's request.

## Elevations and Appeals

Elevations of a consistency determination issued by a coordinating agency follow the procedures established under regulations at 11 AAC 110.600.

## Public Hearings, Additional Information, and Extensions

Both the 30 and 50-day review time lines contain provisions for requesting public hearings, additional information, and extensions of the review process to accommodate these requests. Parties reviewing the permit packet may request that the coordinating agency hold a public hearing prior to reaching a consistency determination. If a written request is received by day 30 of a 50-day review or day 17 of a 30-day review, the request is relevant to consistency with an enforceable policy, and the request is based on information that would not otherwise be available in the consistency review, the coordinating agency will schedule and hold a hearing in the area affected by the project. Agencies may also hold hearings on issues resulting from regulatory requirements other than coastal consistency.

If the information provided in the permit application/project questionnaire is not adequate to make a consistency determination or recommendation, the coordinating or review participants

can request additional information from the applicant. A request for additional information must be made by day 13 of a 30-day review or day 25 of a 50-day review.

The consistency review process, the associated timeline and provisions under which extensions may occur are described in greater detail in 11 AAC 110.270.

## **State Notification to Affected Communities**

The AWCRSA, through the Program Coordinator, is responsible for coordinating the local consistency recommendation. Due to the size of the AWCRSA and possible delays in intra-region mail, it is extremely difficult to get permit information to affected communities and receive input on consistency recommendations within the permit review time frames. In order to assist with local review and minimize requests for additional review time, the coordinating agency is encouraged to send or fax the coastal questionnaire/permit application and other pertinent information to the AWCRSA and affected communities simultaneously, by the most expedient method. Since the AWCRSA is in an unorganized borough and mail delivery is often delayed, the Program Coordinator may request a 10-day extension to provide adequate review and comment time [11 AAC 110.270(a)(9)].

Contact information for the AWCRSA and affected communities is as follows:

Program Coordinator  
AWCRSA  
P. O. Box 1074  
Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-6700 PH  
1-800-207-6701 (toll free)  
(907) 745-6711 FAX  
[awcrsa@gci.net](mailto:awcrsa@gci.net)

Planning Director  
City of Unalaska  
P.O. Box 89  
Unalaska, Alaska 99685  
(907) 581-3100 PH  
(907) 581-2187 FAX  
Email: [rhall@ci.unalaska.ak.us](mailto:rhall@ci.unalaska.ak.us)

Mayor  
City of Atka  
P.O. Box 47070  
Atka, Alaska 99547  
(907) 839-2233 PH  
(907) 839-2234 FAX

City Administrator  
City of Atka  
P. O. Box 765  
Unalaska, AK 99568  
(907) 581-6226 PH

(907) 581-6317 FAX  
[atka2@arctic.net](mailto:atka2@arctic.net)

President  
IRA Council  
General Delivery  
Nikolski, Alaska 99638  
(907) 576-2225 PH  
(907) 576-2205 FAX

The agency coordinating a consistency review shall send notice of proposed projects to communities of the AWCRSA if the project is located within the city limits or if there are reasonably foreseeable impacts to the coastal uses or resources within the community. The linear nature of the Aleutian chain makes it somewhat unlikely that many projects would have district-wide effect. There is some potential that transportation or cleanup of hazardous waste or military operations on several islands could have a broad effect.

### **Changes in the Nature of a Permitted or Approved Activity**

A project, activity or use that has received a consistency determination under 11 AAC 110 may be subject to additional review if the use or activity is modified or changed. The applicant must submit a new Coastal Project Questionnaire and a detailed description of the proposed modification to the coordinating agency. The modification will be subject to a consistency review if the proposed modification may cause additional impacts to a coastal use or resource and a new or modified federal or resource agency authorization subject to the consistency review is required.

## **Local Government Permits And Approvals Review And Consistency Procedures**

Under the provisions of AS 46.40.100 (a) municipal land and water use regulations or controls are to be administered in conformity with approved district coastal management programs. In some cases, a proposed action requiring a municipal permit or approval may need a state or federal permit, and the consistency review will take place at the state level. Often, a proposed action will only require a municipal permit and no state or federal permit. In such cases and as specified under the district coastal management plan, the municipal government is responsible for developing the consistency determination.

There are two local governments within the AWCRSA that have existing or potential planning powers, Unalaska and Atka. Atka does not currently exercise planning powers nor requires permits and approvals for development within municipal boundaries. This section will address the City of Unalaska, but will apply to Atka if it adopts local planning powers.

The City of Unalaska is a first class municipality, exercising zoning and other controls on land uses within the city limits. Projects occurring within the City of Unalaska that require a state or federal permit must be found consistent with the coastal management program, and the AWCRSA's comments must receive "due deference" from the state within its areas of expertise or responsibility [11 AAC 110.255(a)]. In order to ensure that the City of Unalaska has a formal



role in the development of the AWCRSA comments in state consistency reviews for projects occurring within the City of Unalaska, the AWCRSA and the City of Unalaska entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in 1999 regarding the implementation of the coastal management program within the Unalaska city limits.

The City of Unalaska's zoning and other land use control ordinances are consistent with the AWCRSA coastal management program. The City of Unalaska will implement the coastal management program by permitting uses under the City code, Title VIII. When the City revises its zoning or other land use, the revised ordinance must be determined by the City to be consistent with the coastal management program.

When the AWCRSA Program Director receives notice of a consistency review from the State of Alaska for a project occurring within the City limits of Unalaska, the Program Director will, within two business days, confirm that the notice and project information were received by the City Planning Director. The Program Director will also provide the City Planning Director with at least two days notice of any public hearings scheduled by the AWCRSA Board to address the proposed project.

By day 26 of a 50-day consistency review, the AWCRSA Program Director will distribute a draft consistency recommendation to the City Planning Director. By day 29, if no public hearing has been held by the AWCRSA Board, the City may object to the draft consistency recommendation. If objecting, the City will notify the Program Director of the City's objection, and request that the Program Director contact the coordinating agency to and request modification of the review to allow the CRSA Board to hold a public hearing.

If an objection by the City is not received by the AWCRSA, the Program Director shall submit the AWCRSA's final consistency recommendation to the coordinating agency by Day 30. The City may submit its own comments to the coordinating agency.

If an objection by the City is received by the AWCRSA, the Program Director shall confirm that the coordinating agency has been notified, and that the request for the review clock to be stopped has been granted. The AWCRSA will hold a public hearing within 20 days of the objection by the City.

At the public hearing, the City shall present the basis for its objection to the draft consistency recommendation. The AWCRSA board shall discuss the City's objection, accept other public testimony as it deems appropriate, and determine whether the draft consistency recommendation should be revised.

Following a public hearing, the AWCRSA Program Director shall submit the AWCRSA's final consistency recommendation to the coordinating agency before the expiration of the extension of the project review comment deadline. If the City still objects to the AWCRSA's consistency recommendation, then the AWCRSA will attach the City's objection and justification to the AWCRSA recommendation. By this process, both the City's position and the AWCRSA recommendation are elevated from the district review level to the state review level.

## **The Role Of The AWCRSA In Consistency Determinations**

### **Consistency Recommendation and Due Deference**

The AWCRSA is one of several reviewers that provide consistency recommendations to the coordinating agency, as outlined in the Five-Step Project Approval Process. The AWCRSA Board representatives provide local knowledge and expertise and shall make determinations of public need. The coordinating agency then makes a consistency determination. In making a consistency recommendation, the AWCRSA can take the following courses of action:

- Concur with the applicant's consistency certification. The AWCRSA must explain why they concur
- Object to the applicant's consistency certification and identify any alternative measures (if any) that if adopted by the applicant would achieve consistency. The AWCRSA must explain how the proposed project is inconsistent with the enforceable policies of the ACMP and identify the specific enforceable policies and the reasons why the AWCRSA considers the proposed project inconsistent with those policies. The AWCRSA may find the project inconsistent as proposed or explain how the alternative measures would achieve consistency with those specific enforceable policies.

The recommendation made must be in writing, before the comment deadline. The recommendation of the AWCRSA, along with other resource agency recommendations, must be given "due deference" in its area of expertise or area of responsibility by the coordinating agency in making the consistency determination. If the coordinating agency rejects a recommendation or requested alternative measure by the district in its area of expertise, the coordinating agency must make a brief written explanation stating the reasons for denying the recommendations or requested alternative measures.

### **Procedure**

The coordinating agency will solicit comments from the AWCRSA on consistency.. For state permit reviews, the point of contact for the coordinating agency with the AWCRSA District is the Program Director. Upon notification of a pending permit consistency review or other agency action (such as a DNR Best Interest Finding), the Program Director will notify the AWCRSA Board members. The Program Director will also ensure that affected communities and regional and village native organizations have been notified.

The AWCRSA will request assistance from municipal, Native council and corporation officials (city clerk, mayor, council or corporation president) to obtain public input.

The Program Director will draft written recommendations on the consistency of the proposed project with the policies of the AWCRSA coastal management plan and may include reference to the statewide ACMP standards. The Program Director will rely upon the information and policies in this plan and the input of AWCRSA Board, and affected communities, and Native organizations in preparing the consistency recommendation. The written recommendations will include justification for the recommendation with reference to applicable policies and any alternative measures that will make the project or activity consistent with the AWCRSA coastal management plan. This review will be accomplished within the time frames established by the ACMP permit review regulations.

The Program Director may convene a special meeting of the AWCRSA Board as deemed necessary. The Board may request a public hearing under the provisions of the Permit Review procedures or develop a timely consistency recommendation at the special meeting. The Board will determine the project's consistency, and as necessary, propose any alternative measures necessary for the development founded upon both the plan and the input from any public meetings.

## **Timeline**

The AWCRSA Program Director will determine whether the information submitted in the review packet is adequate to evaluate consistency or if additional information is needed. If more information is required, the Program Director will notify the coordinating agency by day 13 of a 30 day review, or day 25 of a 50 day review and specifically identify the necessary information. The coordinating agency will determine if the request is reasonable, advise the applicant of the needed information, and then provide additional review time in accordance with procedures outlined in 11 AAC 110.

The Program Director, in consultation with AWCRSA Board as necessary, will prepare and submit a consistency recommendation to the coordinating agency within 17 days of receipt of a complete application for a 30-day review permit, and within 30 days for a 50-day review permit. Objections to the consistency certification will include any alternative measures necessary to make the project consistent with the ACMP. Table 1 shows the timeline procedure used by the AWCRSA Program Director in making a consistency recommendation under a 30-day and 50-day review time line.

## **Local Involvement In AWCRSA Consistency Recommendations And Determinations**

### **Local Notification and Input on State and Federal Permit Applications**

Upon receiving notice of a state or federal permit application, the Program Director will notify the mayor, city manager of any communities, and/or the president of an IRA Council that could potentially be affected by the proposed action. The Program Director will also determine if major landowners will be affected by the proposed action, and will contact their representatives to identify concerns and special conditions for development. The Program Director will ensure that local concerns are solicited and appropriately incorporated in the AWCRSA consistency recommendation. Where local concerns cannot be incorporated into the AWCRSA consistency recommendation, the Program Director must provide a justification to the local contacts involved.

### **Public Hearing**

Any person or affected party may request that the coordinating agency hold a public hearing on a project or activity undergoing a consistency determination by providing adequate justification for the request as required by 11 AAC 110.520. During the initial consistency review, the Program Director, in consultation with the AWCRSA Board and affected parties, may decide that the scope of a project will require a public hearing. If a public hearing is needed, the Program Director will outline the need for such a hearing and submit a written request that the

coordinating agency hold a public hearing. The coordinating agency will review the request to determine if a hearing would provide information that would not otherwise be available in the consistency review.

## **Local Participants And Responsibility**

### **Planning For Major Projects**

Certain types of activities have the potential to impact coastal resources significantly and create major changes within the AWCRSA. The AWCRSA is interested in participating in agency planning for large-scale development projects and land management decisions. However, a consistency determination made at the time of a permit approval often takes place after the planning process is completed. Last minute conflicts can often be avoided through CRSA involvement early in the planning process.

There are three procedures that are strongly encouraged for major activities of area-wide concern: (1) pre-development conferences, (2) permit application conferences, and (3) local partnership in planning activities. Participation in these procedures has the following objectives:

- Identify coastal management concerns early in project or plan development
- Address problems and potential consistency conflicts prior to the permit or approval stage
- Speed up subsequent permits or approvals through resolution of issues
- Ensure the compatibility of future planning projects with the approved coastal management program

### **Major Projects**

The following types of activities and actions are considered to be major activities of regional concern:

1. Oil and gas exploration, including coal bed methane, development, and support activities
2. Land disposal and subdivision of land over 100 acres in size
3. Transportation/utility facility and corridor designation or construction
4. Mineral exploration or development (projects requiring development of new airstrip or roads, offshore mining, or significant stream diversion)
5. Large scale sand, rock, and gravel extraction (greater than 25,000 cubic yards)
6. Transportation, storage, cleanup, and disposal of hazardous substances (including the Defense Environmental Restoration Act Program and other federal sites)
7. Development of management guidelines for uses and activities on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lands
8. Development of management guidelines for uses and activities on Native Corporation lands
9. Industrial projects, including fish processing and petroleum product storage and transfer
10. Construction or major additions to military facilities within the AWCRSA
11. Community or regional planning efforts
12. Other large-scale developments of regional concern.

## **Pre-development Conference**

At least 60 days prior to filing a permit application or proposing action on a land disposal or management plan, parties proposing activities on the "major project" list are strongly encouraged to present a plan for activities to the AWCRSA Board and other participants in the consistency review process prior to filing the permit application. Presentations should include the description, location, and schedule of the proposed activities. Within 30 days of notification that an applicant would like to make a presentation, the AWCRSA will notify affected communities, major landowners and other consistency review participants, and will work with these groups to hold the presentation meeting. As appropriate, discussions may follow the presentation to identify issues and conflicts that need to be addressed prior to permit review and preparation of the AWCRSA consistency recommendation. The Program Director and AWCRSA Board will be available to work with developers in project planning. All pre-development conferences are open to the public, and public notice of the meeting will be provided. Affected resource agencies will be notified by the AWCRSA Board and invited to attend. The Program Director will provide a written summary to the developer outlining major consistency concerns. Copies will be sent to DNR and the coordinating agency.

## **Permit Application Conference**

After a permit application is filed or an intent of action given for activities on the major project development list, the Program Director will contact the coordinating agency, determine if a conference is necessary, and assist the coordinating agency in its scheduling. The purpose of the conference is to discuss coastal management and permitting issues of the proposed activity and to work toward resolution of issues of concern and potential conflicts. At a minimum, representatives of the coordinating agency, AWCRSA, affected communities, affected major landowners, the applicant, and affected resource agencies will be invited to participate.

Depending on the nature of the activity and travel constraints, the conference may involve a meeting or teleconference. Subsequent work sessions may be beneficial to reaching consensus on the consistency determination. In order to assist the AWCRSA in making consistency recommendations for major projects and to avoid time-delays during project reviews, the following information should be included in applications for permits and other activities requiring consistency determinations:

- A description of the project or activity, including a narrative which explains the purpose of the project or activity
- A map at the most appropriate scale (may be hand drawn) and detail to identify the location of the activity and any existing and proposed structures (facilities and equipment)
- Existing and proposed roads or alterations to the area
- Each element on the plan shall be clearly labeled indicating what it is and if it is existing or proposed
- The date and times the proposed activities will start and end
- Precautions or special procedures that will be used to bring the project into conformity with the intent of the enforceable policies in the coastal management plan; and
- Written justification with any applicable policy from Chapter 4.0 which is modified by the term "practicable."

## **AWCRSA Partnership In Planning Activities**

AWCRSA partnership in local, state, and federal planning activities that affect management and allocation of coastal resources in the region is desirable. This partnership will help meet the requirements of 11 AAC 110 that state planning activities be compatible with approved district coastal management programs.

The AWCRSA partnership in local, state, and federal planning activities is strongly encouraged to allow local residents to work with agency decision makers in planning for major activities (AWCRSA does not have the legal authority to require such participation). The term "partnership" is not intended to imply that the AWCRSA would assume equal authority in planning decisions, but to establish that there would be meaningful participation of the coastal district in the planning process. State and federal agencies are strongly encouraged to include representatives of the AWCRSA Board, affected communities, and major landowners in any planning teams formed to address regional planning and resource management and allocation.

This process establishes a partnership between the AWCRSA, local major landowners, and state agencies. Through the use of existing state and federal planning efforts, augmented by local communities and major landowners, state and corporate land and resource administrators can come to an agreement about how, where and when activities should occur to assure protection and wise use of coastal resources. The AWCRSA Board can help identify local representatives who should work with state or federal agencies to assure that planning efforts reflect local concerns and have credibility in both the district and state government.

AWCRSA participation is expected in major planning activities such as those described below:

- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) develops land use plans known as "Area Plans" which contain land allocation and management guidelines. Area plans are developed for specific areas of the state to ensure that multiple uses of state land are compatible. An area plan can designate state land to be managed for habitat protection, commercial timber, land disposal, transportation corridors, mineral development, or energy development. An area plan can address many activities of area-wide concern; however, given the small amount of state land in the AWCRSA, the likelihood of DNR initiating an area plan is low. DNR also has responsibility for management of state lands and tidelands. Management and disposal of state tidelands are of special interest to the AWCRSA.
- The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) prepares Regional Transportation Studies to determine transportation facility needs and program capital projects. As part of a regional transportation study, resource development needs are assessed along with conflicts associated with transportation improvements. During plan preparation local input is obtained through a steering committee and public hearings. Participation on the steering committee by the AWCRSA and major landowners will insure AWCRSA planning needs are met.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) prepares Comprehensive Conservation Plans to: designate areas within refuges by value; specify programs for conserving fish and wildlife and programs related to maintaining identified values in designated areas; specify uses within designated areas which may be compatible with the major purposes of the refuge; and set forth opportunities which will be provided within the refuge for fish and wildlife oriented recreation,

ecological research, environmental education, and interpretation of refuge resources and values. The AWCRSA, affected communities, and affected major landowners within refuge lands will participate to the maximum extent practicable in the preparation and amendment of such plans.

- The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is responsible for preparing or overseeing preparation of regional and project-specific oil spill response plans. DEC may also be involved in planning for storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous wastes. The AWCRSA, affected communities, and affected major landowners within refuge lands will participate to the maximum extent practicable in preparation and amendment of such plans, including service on planning teams or steering committees.
- The Department of Fish and Game (DF&G) develops fish and wildlife management regulations and prepares management plans for state wildlife refuges and critical habitat areas. They also prepare Regional Habitat Management Guides that provide geographical-area fish and wildlife habitat and resource information for land and resource managers. The AWCRSA requests to be included in any planning teams or steering committees formed to prepare or revise regulations, and any planning efforts affecting the Aleutians West region.
- The Aleut Corporation and associated ANCSA Native Village Corporations own and manage surface and subsurface lands within the AWCRSA. The AWCRSA requests an opportunity to participate in planning efforts to develop management guidelines for major development projects affecting the Aleutians West region.

The AWCRSA desires to play a partnership role in the following plans, by area of concern:

- Land/tideland disposal - DNR Area Plan and amendments; state and municipal tideland leases and disposals
- Transportation corridor designation or construction - DOT/PF Regional Transportation Plans and other project studies; DNR area plan and amendments
- Oil and gas exploration and development - DNR issue identification and review participation in Best Interest Findings; Minerals Management Service NEPA reviews; Native Corporation planning efforts
- Mineral exploration or development - DNR Area Plan and amendments, issue identification and review; participation in Best Interest Findings
- Large scale gravel extraction - DNR Area Plan and amendments and community comprehensive plans; Native corporation planning efforts
- Classification or reclassification of state and federal lands and tidelands for the above uses DNR Area Plan and amendments
- Management plans and guidelines - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Comprehensive Conservation Plans; ADF&G management plans and regulations; Native corporation planning efforts
- Hazardous substances - spill prevention, control, and countermeasure (SPCC) plans; local and regional oil spill response plans; Department of Defense plans for the management and/or cleanup of hazardous materials and sites
- State and federal fisheries enhancement plans
- Department of Defense plans for the location of facilities within the AWCRSA

## **Planning Activities and Consistency**

During the development of regional management plans or project specific planning efforts, permit applications for major projects in areas covered by these plans may be submitted for approval. It is desirable that such planning efforts have input into the consistency determination process. Agencies and other parties responsible for consistency recommendations and determinations should consult with staff involved on planning teams for input on consistency recommendations.

## **District Program Amendment**

After completing any regional planning efforts, the CRSA Board will evaluate amending the AWCRSA Coastal Management Program to include pertinent policies, classifications, and resource data developed through the specific planning process. Any proposed amendments will follow appropriate procedures for district program amendment.

## **Amendments And Revisions**

[NOTE: AS 11 AAC 365(b) REQUIRES THAT THE DISTRICT REVIEW AND SUBMIT THEIR PLAN TO DNR EVERY 10 YEARS FOR REAPPROVAL. DISTRICTS MAY SPECIFY A SHORTER TIME FRAME TO REVIEW THEIR PLANS.]

Every five years a local review of the approved coastal program should be initiated by the Program Director. This formal review gives residents, developers, affected communities and local land owners an opportunity to propose amendments and become familiar with the plan and its policies. Changes can be proposed and examined to keep the program up-to-date and relevant. Some adjustments may be made to coastal boundaries or land use districts based on new information. Policies may be further refined and standards adopted to facilitate the consistency review process. More detailed plans developed for special areas, such as AMSAs, may be incorporated into the coastal plan after state and federal approval.

The CRSA Board must approve all amendments to the CMP. The Commissioner of DNR and the federal Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management must also approve any amendment to the CMP. The process for amending the CMP is contained in regulations at 11 AAC 114.

Two processes are available to the CRSA for amending its plan. The minor amendment process quickly incorporates minor changes. The significant amendment process provides a more thorough review for important changes. Examples of changes that are a significant amendment to the AWCRSA CMP are:

- 1) New policies or changes to existing policies
- 2) Alteration to the coastal boundaries other than technical adjustments
- 3) AMSAs or Special Use Areas
- 4) Restrictions or exclusions of a use of state concern not previously restricted or excluded.



## **Monitoring And Enforcement**

AS 46.40.100 gives state resource agencies and municipalities enforcement responsibility for provisions of the Alaska Coastal Management Program. If an applicant fails to implement an adopted alternative measure or if the applicant undertakes a project modification not incorporated into the final determination and not reviewed under 11 AAC 110.800- 820, it is a violation of the Alaska Coastal Management Program. The responsibility for enforcing alternative measures carried on state and federal permits rests with the permitting agency. The AWCRSA strongly encourages the state to enforce alternative measures and bring violators into compliance.

District policies and ACMP standards are implemented at the state level through alternative measures incorporated into the project description. The ACMP does not issue a separate coastal permit but relies on existing state authorities. Thus, state monitoring and enforcement of the ACMP occurs primarily through agency monitoring and enforcement of alternative measures on their permits. A district can assist in this process by monitoring projects and providing information to appropriate state agencies.

## **"C" List Permits And Approvals**

Permits and other authorizations for activities that require an individual project review, current as of February 2002, are presented in Appendix C to provide persons using the AWCRSA coastal management plan with an indication of the types of permits that will be reviewed for consistency with the coastal management plan. This list is revised periodically. Consult the State of Alaska web site for the most recent information. Questions regarding the status of the revised list can be directed to the AWCRSA Program Director or the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management and Permitting.

### **Permits and Approvals Requiring individual Project Review**

The C-List contains State permits that require an individual Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) consistency review per 11 AAC 110.010. The list is all-inclusive. Before an ACMP review is initiated, applicants must complete applications for activities that require authorizations on the C List or for federal authorizations listed in 11 AAC 110.400. In addition, applicants must fill out a Coastal Project Questionnaire (CPQ) (Appendix B). A 30- or 50-day individual ACMP consistency review will be conducted. The applicant will be given an opportunity to accept proposed alternative measures) or propose other measures before the coordinating agency issues a final ACMP consistency determination. Following this, State agencies must issue permits involved in the project review within five days, unless other statutory or regulatory obligations require more time.

Projects that require a listed federal or state permit and are located in the coastal zone or on federal land within the state's coastal zone will require a consistency review. Projects outside the coastal zone that affect coastal resources or uses may need a consistency review under certain circumstances. If a federal agency is proposing an activity that affects any coastal use or resource DNR will coordinate a consistency review to ensure that the activity will be conducted in a manner that is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the ACMP.

If, during the initial review of the CPQ, it is discovered that a permit(s) not included on the A List or either section of the B List is required (e.g., a C List permit or individual federal authorization), the project must undergo an individual ACMP consistency review. The coordinating agency may remove activities from a review if they are covered by an A or B list activity with agreement of the resource agencies and the coastal district. Note that each approval on the C-List indicates the appropriate review schedule (either 30 or 50 days) or that no schedule is applicable (N/A). The C-List also indicates whether a particular State agency permit appears on the A-List or Section I of the B-List.

Applicants are reminded to consult with local government staff to see if any local development permits or approvals are required for the proposed project.

## Public Education And Outreach

The Program Director is committed to understanding how coastal management can benefit communities and residents within the AWCRSA and knows the most important way to gain this understanding is to listen to people. If coastal management is presented within the framework of local issues, concerns, and visions for the future, residents will be more likely to participate and support the program.

The Program Director already has a general feel for local issues and sentiment and should encourage decision-making bodies and residents of the AWCRSA to use coastal management as a way to identify areas appropriate for development, keep coastal resources healthy, and as a way to effect state and federal decision-making. The Program Director also wants to ensure that local knowledge and public needs are heard and considered when local coastal resources and way of life might be affected by a development proposal.

The Program Director will implement the following education and outreach strategies as time and resources allow.

- Request general ACMP publications from OPMP and make sure these are available to local residents.
- Use public service announcements (radio and newspaper), flyers, newspaper ads, and phone calls to encourage the input from residents during the review of projects.
- Encourage local residents to communicate with the Program Director about coastal issues.
- Talk to legislators about how the ACMP benefits the people, local coastal resources, and the local economy.
- Maintain the AWCRSA coastal management web site.
- Participate in state, federal, and tribal natural resource planning efforts.
- Encourage CRSA board members to participate in education and outreach efforts, and provide them with the resources they will need to do this.
- Use OPMP as a resource.

## **6.0 Special Area Planning**

### **Introduction**

The Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) provides an opportunity for districts to develop specific plans, beyond the district plan, for areas with unique places, resources or uses. An ACMP special area plan is a coastal management tool that can be used to address many coastal resource use issues, solve problems, protect valuable coastal resources or habitats, or resolve conflicts between user groups.

Among other benefits, a special area plan:

- Identifies the public values that help determine the use or protection of the area or resources in question
- Includes policies that establish specific criteria for project reviews
- Guides direction for implementing the decisions made in the plan

Special area plans are most appropriately used for a resource issue when, because of unique or exceptional circumstances, the district desires a higher level of protection for that resource than is provided by the District Plan policies.

### **Four Types of Special Area Plans**

A special area plan can take many forms, depending on location, and type and complexity of the issue. This flexibility allows each special area plan to adapt to its unique environment. Because there are a variety of situations that require different levels of special area planning, the ACMP has created four types of special area plans:

- Special Area Management Plan
- Area which Merits Special Attention Plan inside a coastal district
- Area which Merits Special Attention Plan outside a coastal district
- Sensitive Area Policies within a district plan

By offering four types of plans, the ACMP provides flexibility to use the type of special area plan that best meets the needs of a particular area.

### **What Makes an Area Special?**

For purposes of special area planning under the ACMP, an area may be determined special if it is a place where:

- Conflicts occur or may occur between uses. For instance, conflicts between uses can occur in areas that are important for subsistence and for commercial use
- Conflicts occur or may occur between a use and the desire to protect a valuable coastal resource. Conflicts between uses and a coastal resource can occur in valuable habitat areas that are also important for development

- A valuable coastal resource needs protecting. For instance, an area with unusual geographical or biological characteristics may warrant protection for scientific and educational study

## Special Area Management Plan

Special Area Management Plans (SAMPs) are designed to address the issues of a specific resource or use that occurs over a portion of the coastal district. A SAMP can provide detailed management direction for coastal resources. A SAMP can also provide detailed management direction for coastal uses. A SAMP's increased specificity results in more predictable decision-making by governments, public information on use and limitations on the resources, and improved protection and use of coastal resources.

Possible applications for SAMPs could include management plans for wetlands, recreation, erosion or geophysical hazards, watersheds, oceans, access, public use, coastal resource development and protection, specific habitat for renewable and non-renewable resources, and harbors.

The criteria for a Special Area Management Plan are found in 11 AAC 114.400-430. A district may develop a special area management plan to manage a specific resource or activity within the district. Examples of a special area management plan include a harbor management plan, an ocean resource management plan, a public use management plan, a recreation management plan, a watershed management plan, and a wetlands management plan. A special area management plan provides for increased specificity in protecting significant natural resources, coastal-dependent economic growth, improved protection of life and property in hazardous areas, and improved predictability in governmental decision making. Development and approval of a special area management plan for inclusion in the Alaska coastal management program must follow the procedures for approval of a district program or significant amendment as described in 11 AAC 114.300-385.

## Areas Which Merit Special Attention

The criteria for Areas which Merit Special Attention (AMSA) are found in 11 AAC 114.420.

- (a) A district may develop a program for an area which merits special attention. The development and approval of a program for an area which merits special attention is subject to 11 AAC.114.
- (b) An area which merits special attention includes the following, in addition to the categories included as examples in AS 46.40.210:
  - (1) an area important for subsistence hunting, fishing, food gathering, and foraging;
  - (2) an area with special scientific value, including an area where an ongoing research project could be jeopardized by development or a conflicting use or activity; and
  - (3) a potential estuarine or marine sanctuary.

Areas which merit special attention are further defined in AS 46.40.210 as follows:

- (1) "area which merits special attention" means a delineated geographic area within the coastal area which is sensitive to change or alteration and which, because of plans or commitments or because a claim on the resources within the area delineated would preclude subsequent

use of the resources to a conflicting or incompatible use, warrants special management attention, or which, because of its value to the general public, should be identified for current or future planning, protection, or acquisition; these areas, subject to council definition of criteria for their identification, include:

- (A) areas of unique, scarce, fragile or vulnerable natural habitat, cultural value, historical significance, or scenic importance;
- (B) areas of high natural productivity or essential habitat for living resources;
- (C) areas of substantial recreational value or opportunity;
- (D) areas where development of facilities is dependent upon the utilization of, or access to, coastal water;
- (E) areas of unique geologic or topographic significance which are susceptible to industrial or commercial development;
- (F) areas of significant hazard due to storms, slides, floods, erosion, or settlement; and
- (G) areas needed to protect, maintain, or replenish coastal land or resources, including coastal flood plains, aquifer recharge areas, beaches, and offshore sand deposits;

## **Two Types of AMSA Plans**

There are two types of AMSA plans: those located inside coastal districts, and those located outside coastal districts. AMSA's located inside a coastal district are simply called AMSAs. AMSAs located outside a coastal district are called extraterritorial AMSAs or ET AMSAs. Both AMSA and ET AMSA plans need to meet the following four conditions. ET AMSA plans also have additional content requirements, which are explained in the next section.

- AMSA criteria. First, the AMSA plan must explain how the AMSA area meets at least one of the criteria for designating an AMSA in AS 46.210(1) or 11 AAC 114.420.
- AMSA area. The second requirement for an AMSA is a variation of the coastal zone boundary element of a district plan. Similar to a district plan's Boundary chapter, an AMSA plan provides a map and narrative legal description of the limits of the AMSA area
- Significant conflicts. A third requirement of an AMSA plan is to summarize the importance of the resources and any conflicts that are occurring or may occur in the future
- Consideration of alternatives. Finally, an AMSA plan must explain why an AMSA designation was the preferred planning and management approach, and why it was selected over other alternatives

## **Areas which Merit Special Attention Inside a District**

The criteria for Areas which merit Special Attention inside a District are outlined in 11 AAC 114.420:

- (a) A person may recommend to a district that an area inside the district be submitted to the council for approval as an area which merits special attention. A district may include in its proposed district program, or submit for approval as a significant amendment to its district program, a program for an area which merits special attention.
- (b) A program for an area which merits special attention must include
  - (1) how the area meets the descriptions contained in AS 46.40.210 or 11 AAC 114;

- (2) a map showing the geographical location, surface area and, if appropriate, bathymetry of the area, along with a legal and narrative description of the boundaries and a justification of the size of the area which merits special attention;
- (3) the district program elements described in 11 AAC 114.
- (4) a summary of the resource values and use conflicts, if any, in the area; and
- (5) an analysis showing that designation of an area which merits special attention is the district's preferred planning and management mechanism for meeting the objectives of the proposal and the Alaska coastal management program.
- (c) Development and council approval of a program for an area which merits special attention inside a district must follow the procedures for approval of a district program or significant amendment as described in 11 AAC 114.305-335.
- (d) A program for an area which merits special attention inside a district must preserve, protect, enhance, or restore each value for which the area was designated.

## **Areas which Merit Special Attention Outside a District**

AMSAs that are located outside a District (ET AMSAs) are similar to other AMSAs in several ways. They offer an opportunity to manage areas that are sensitive to change because of potential development pressures. They must also meet the same criteria for designation as other AMSAs, as noted above, in AS 46.40.210(1) and 11 AAC 114. ET AMSAs are the only way to use the ACMP to provide more specific management for areas outside coastal districts.

The criteria for Areas which merit Special Attention outside a District are outlined in 11 AAC 114.430.

- (a) After meeting the requirements imposed upon a district under 11 AAC 114, a person may recommend to the council that an area within the coastal zone but outside a coastal resource district be designated as an area which merits special attention. A recommendation to the council for an area which merits special attention outside a district must be submitted to the division, and must include
  - (1) the basis for designation;
  - (2) a map showing the geographical location of the area, a legal and narrative description of the area's boundaries, and a justification for the size of the area;
  - (3) a summary of the resource values and use conflicts, if any, in the area;
  - (4) a statement of the purpose and objectives to be met through a program for an area which merits special attention;
  - (5) a tentative schedule for completion of planning tasks and reviews;
  - (6) the source of funding for developing the area which merits special attention program;
  - (7) a list of persons with interests in or adjacent to the proposed area who may be affected by its designation, and a description of how these persons would be involved in program development;
  - (8) a letter commenting on the proposed area from
    - (A) a state agency that would implement the program for that area;
    - (B) a district, state agency, or federal agency that is interested, or identified as interested, in the development of that program;
  - (9) a written summary of the issues discussed and the participants involved in the meetings as defined under 11 AAC 114 ; and
  - (10) an analysis showing that a program for an area which merits special attention is the planning and management mechanism that the state agencies responsible for

implementation prefer for meeting the objectives of the proposal and the Alaska coastal management program.

- (b) A program for an area which merits special attention outside a district must preserve, protect, enhance, or restore each value for which the area is designated.
- (c) Upon receipt of a recommendation for designation of an area which merits special attention outside of a district, the division shall place the recommendation on the council's agenda for consideration at its next regularly scheduled meeting, and shall give notice of a public hearing. In addition to providing public notice of that meeting, the division shall give direct notice to each person identified in (a)(7) of this section. The division shall make the recommendation available for public inspection at the time of the public notice.
- (d) The council will detail its reasons and either authorize additional planning for the area which merits special attention, or reject the recommendation. The council's authorization of additional planning does not constitute council approval of or funding for a final program for that area.
- (e) If the council authorizes additional planning under this section, the division
  - (1) shall provide public notice by advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected area and in one of general circulation in the state; and
  - (2) shall, with assistance from the person recommending the designation, compile a mailing list of state and federal agencies, interested cities and villages, landowners, and other interested persons, and notify them that development of a program may occur for the area which merits special attention outside the district.
- (f) A program for an area which merits special attention outside a district must
  - (1) contain the district program elements described in 11 AAC 114; and
  - (2) include the information required under (a) of this section.
- (g) Designation of an area which merits special attention outside of a district and the development of a program for that area must be in accordance with the procedures for approval of a district program or significant amendment to a district program, as described in 11 AAC 114. For purposes of those sections, the person recommending the designation of the area shall meet a requirement that a district would have to meet under those sections,
  - (1) except that submission of the concept-approved draft under 11 AAC 114 occurs without conceptual approval by resolution under (a) of that section; and
  - (2) unless the context of 11 AAC 114 indicates otherwise.
- (h) The DNR will approve or disapprove the designation of and program for an area which merits special attention outside the district. The provisions of 11 AAC 114 apply to a DNR decision under this subsection. Within 30 days after a DNR approval, the division shall submit that designation and program for federal review as described in 11 AAC 114. The designation of and program for that area takes effect as part of the Alaska coastal management program 30 days after the lieutenant governor's filing of DNR's decision approving the designation of and program for that area.

## **Sensitive Area Policies**

If there are issues in a coastal district that do not require a full-scale SAMP or AMSA planning effort, but do require some special attention, sensitive area policies may be appropriate. They are policies that help determine to what extent a particular use or activity will be allowed in a sensitive area. Sensitive area policies guide uses and activities in habitats, natural hazard areas, and resource areas that are sensitive to development. They can encourage uses or activities to locate in appropriate, less sensitive areas. Conversely, special area policies can discourage certain uses and activities in more sensitive areas.

Sensitive areas are places where habitats or resources identified in the Resource Analysis have a tendency to be easily altered from other activities or forces. The Resource Analysis may conclude that certain areas within the district differ from the rest of the district in their value and intended management. A sensitive area might be a harbor, beach, anadromous fish stream, subsistence area, village, or a wetlands area.

A district can incorporate sensitive area policies in a plan in two ways. A district that is developing a new plan or amending an existing plan for other reasons can include sensitive area policies as part of that larger planning process. Alternately, a district can identify a need to solve a particular issue, and then decide to develop a set of sensitive area policies for one if its coastal management plans using the significant amendment process.

Sensitive area policies are developed following the same requirements for district policies specified in 11 AAC 114; however, three kinds of information are particularly important for sensitive area policies:

- Description of the sensitive area in the Resource Analysis
- Map or description of the sensitive area
- Reference of the map or description in the policies section

## **Potential Areas for Further Study**

At this time, the AWCRSA Board has not identified any areas within the coastal district boundary for additional study and planning as potential special areas. The Board could identify such areas in the future, as the need arises.



## **7.0 Public Participation**

### **Introduction**

Public participation is a critical element in the development or update of a coastal management plan. For the update of the AWCRSA coastal management plan, local residents, as well as state and federal agency representatives, were provided information on the update process and were given a number of opportunities to participate. This effort helps ensure that the plan reflects the attitudes and values of the local residents regarding use of the district's coastal resources. Local, state and federal representatives who participate in the update process are able to provide feedback for maintaining a smooth working relationship between the AWCRSA, agencies, residents, and developers.

Public education and participation are keys to encouraging local residents to become stewards of their coastal resources and to make informed choices for the wise and balanced use of these resources. The AWCRSA Board and staff provided several types of opportunities for public participation. Community meetings were held to describe the Alaska Coastal Management Program to residents, the AWCRSA role, and necessary steps toward a plan update. News articles, radio announcements, flyers, and mailings were used to inform residents of the progress of the update.

### **Scoping**

In the fall of 1999, the AWCRSA undertook a scoping process to analyze their 1990-91 plan, gather public comments, and develop recommendations for a revision of the plan. A mailing list was developed, media materials prepared, a meeting held with state and federal officials in Anchorage, followed by community meetings in Atka, Nikolski, and Unalaska. These public participation activities are detailed the *AWCRSA Coastal Management Plan Scoping Report*, June 2000.

### **AWCRSA Board Meetings and Work Sessions**

The AWCRSA Board meets monthly, generally on the third Monday of the month. Most meetings are via teleconference, although several meetings each year are held with the Board and staff in Unalaska. The AWCRSA provides transportation for Board members from Atka and Nikolski to Unalaska. The Board has met on a regular basis throughout the coastal management plan update process. In addition, the Board has held numerous teleconference work sessions to review the draft updated sections of the plan in detail. Community notice is provided prior to Board meetings and work sessions, and all meetings are open to the public.

### **Community Meetings**

Community meetings were held on the following dates in the following communities throughout the AWCRSA coastal plan update process. Details on the meetings are provided in the section on "Review of Coastal Plan Sections."

- October 30, 2000      Unalaska
- November 1, 2000    Atka
- November 2, 2000    Nikolski
- June 29-30, 2001     Unalaska
- November 6, 2001    Unalaska
- February 26, 2002    Atka via teleconference
- September 25, 2002   Unalaska
- September 30, 2002   Atka
- October 21, 2002     Unalaska (Public Hearing)
- October XX, 2004     Unalaska (Public Meeting)
- March 21, 2005       Unalaska (Public Hearing)
- March 23, 2005       Atka and Nikolski via teleconference

## Advertising and News Articles

### Paid Advertising:

<i>Dutch Harbor Fisherman</i>	October 19 & 26, 2000
<i>Dutch Harbor Fisherman</i>	June 21 & 28, 2001
<i>Dutch Harbor Fisherman</i>	October 25 & November 1, 2001
<i>Dutch Harbor Fisherman</i>	April 11 & 18, 2002
<i>Dutch Harbor Fisherman</i>	September 19, 2002
<i>Anchorage Daily News</i>	September 20, 2002
<i>Dutch Harbor Fisherman</i>	March, 2005

### News Articles:

<i>Dutch Harbor Fisherman</i>	October 19 & 26, 2000
<i>Dutch Harbor Fisherman</i>	June 21 & 28, 2001
<i>Dutch Harbor Fisherman</i>	October 25 & November 1, 2001
<i>Dutch Harbor Fisherman</i>	April 11 & 18, 2002
Atka IRA Newsletter	December 2000
Atka IRA Newsletter	May 2001
Coastal Currents	July 2000
Coastal Currents	March 2001
Coastal Currents	July 2001
<i>Dutch Harbor Fisherman</i>	September 19, 2002
<i>Dutch Harbor Fisherman</i>	October 17, 2002

### Other Media:

KIAL Radio and Channel 8 TV, Dutch Harbor  
Flyers for posting to Unalaska, Nikolski, and Dutch Harbor

## Review of Coastal Plan Sections

### Resource Inventory Atlas

The update of the AWCRSA coastal management plan began in the summer of 2000 with aerial mapping of Unalaska Island. This was followed by classification of the shoreline of the Aleutian Islands, using existing maps and the new maps produced during the aerial mapping.

In the fall of 2000, the mapping contractor visited Alaska to coordinate with the AWCRSA Board, staff, and consultant for a trip to Unalaska to gather comments on revising the maps, as well as gather data from state and federal agencies in Alaska. The contractor met with state and federal agency representatives in Anchorage during the last week of October 2000. A public meeting was held in Unalaska on October 30, 2000 to discuss the Resource Inventory, Analysis and Atlas update, as well as gather comments. The consultant and the contractor also met with organizations and agencies in Unalaska to discuss the mapping. In addition, the contractor met with additional agency representatives in Anchorage, following the trip to Unalaska. The AWCRSA Board chairman, the Program Director, and the consultant then traveled to Atka and Nikolski for public meetings to discuss the Resource Inventory Atlas with local residents in those communities and gather their comments. Meetings were held in Atka on November 1 and Nikolski on November 2.

In early spring of 2001, the contractor provided draft maps to the AWCRSA Board, staff, consultant, and key contacts. The Program Director and consultant distributed additional maps to community representatives in Atka, Nikolski, Unalaska, and to the City of Adak and the Adak Reuse Corporation, as well as additional local, state and federal agency representatives. Comments were compiled by the consultant and provided to the contractor.

## **Resource Inventory and Analysis**

The public participation for the first update phase of the Resource Inventory and Analysis was concurrent with the Resource Inventory Atlas update. Print and electronic media materials announcing the community meetings in Unalaska, Atka, and Dutch Harbor were prepared and distributed in early October 2000. Flyers were provided to all communities. Letters were sent to key community contacts and follow-up phone calls were made. Community meetings were held in Unalaska on October 30, Atka on November 1 and Nikolski on November 2. There was good participation at the meetings and many questions and comments. Residents shared their concerns, as well as wrote comments on wall charts and the old Atlas to update resource information.

During the data-gathering phase in the winter of 2000-2001, the consultant worked individually with community representatives to update information on their communities. The consultant worked with the city staff at the City of Unalaska, with the City of Atka and the Atka IRA Council, with the AWCRSA Board member for Nikolski. When Adak became a second-class city in the spring of 2001, the city was contacted to develop a profile on the community.

In early June of 2001, copies of the draft Resource Inventory and Analysis were distributed to key community and state and federal agency contacts for review and comment. Those contacts were also invited to participate or send a representative to a public meeting in Unalaska on June 29, 2001. Media materials and flyers were prepared and distributed prior to the June 29 meeting. The AWCRSA provided transportation to the June meeting for representatives of Atka and Nikolski, as well as extended the same invitation to representatives from the City of Adak. Representatives from Atka and Nikolski were able to attend the Unalaska meeting, but Adak representatives were unable to participate.

## **Goals and Objectives**

Initial work on updating the Goals and Objectives of the AWCRSA coastal plan began at a public meeting in Unalaska on June 30, 2001. This meeting was held in conjunction with the June 29 meeting to review the draft of the Resource Inventory and Analysis. Community and agency representatives were invited to participate in both meetings. Media materials and flyers were distributed providing information on both meetings.

## **Policies**

Following the update of the Goals and Objectives, Policy development began in the fall of 2001. A public work session was held in Unalaska on November 6. Progress on the update of the AWCRSA plan was reviewed and discussions begun on policy development, as well as subject uses, proper and improper uses, implementation, organization and boundary. Transportation to Unalaska was made available to representatives of Nikolski, Atka, and Adak. Representatives of Nikolski and Atka were present; however, Adak representatives were unable to attend. Media materials and flyers were distributed prior to the meeting.

## **Proposed Public Hearing Draft**

The proposed Public Hearing Draft for the AWCRSA plan was completed in March, 2002 and distributed to key community, state and federal officials, along with an invitation letter to attend a public meeting in Unalaska on April 20. Media materials and flyers were distributed prior to the April 20 meeting. Transportation to Unalaska was made available to representatives of Nikolski, Atka, and Adak.

## **Public Hearing Draft**

The Public Hearing Draft (PHD) of the AWCRSA plan was distributed on August 15, 2002, following the procedures outlined in 6AAC 85.131 and detailed in *Guidebook 2* for the Alaska Coastal Management Program. The comment period was 60 plus days, closing on October 30, 2002. Copies of the PHD were distributed to the entire mailing list included in an appendix in Volume III, with the required cover letter. Public notices were distributed, and specific requirements were provided to the communities within the AWCRSA for submitting their comments. Two community meetings were held during the comment period, along with the required public hearing, which was held on October 21 in Unalaska. Notices were provided as required for the public hearing, along with the required advertising, in both the *Anchorage Daily News* and the *Dutch Harbor Fisherman*.

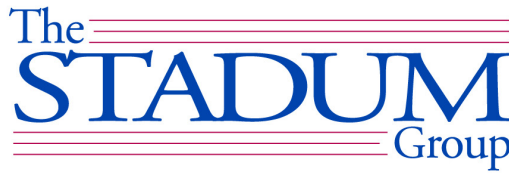
## **Revised Public Hearing Draft**

The Revised Public Hearing Draft was produced in May of 2003, along with a response to all comments. Final edits to the Revised PHD were made in July 2003, and the plan was accepted by a resolution of the AWCRSA Board. Further review, revisions, and State of Alaska approval

are pending due to a reorganization of the Alaska Coastal Management Program in 2003 and pending regulation changes.

# **Appendix A**

## **Public Participation**



4321 E. 104th Avenue • Anchorage, Alaska 99507 • Ph/Fax: 907-346-1930 • Email: stadum@alaska.net

August 15, 2002

Dear Reviewer:

Enclosed are copies of Volumes I, II and III of the Public Hearing Draft for the revised Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA) Coastal Management Plan. Volume I is the *Coastal Resources Inventory and Environmental Sensitivity Maps*, Volume II is the *Resource Inventory and Analysis*, and Volume III is the *Goals, Objectives, Policies and Implementation*. We invite your review on these documents.

The AWCRSA provides this draft for your review and comment in accordance with state law at 6AAC 85.131. **Please note** that comment on the Public Hearing Draft is strongly encouraged. In accordance with state law at 6AAC 85.146(g), the right to comment on later versions of the plan is limited to those items you comment about in the Public Hearing Draft, or items that have changed since the Public Hearing Draft was issued. **The deadline for the receipt of all written and verbal comments is October 30, 2002.**

The revision of the AWCRSA Coastal Management Plan began in the fall of 2000, with preliminary work done in 1999-2000. Community meetings have been held in Atka, Nikolski, and Unalaska over the past two years to discuss the revision with local residents and gather information. If approved, this plan will guide the AWCRSA's participation in the Alaska Coastal Management Program. Uses and activities in the AWCRSA's coastal zone that require local, state or federal authorization will be reviewed for consistency with this plan.

The AWCRSA encompasses all the islands of the Aleutian Chain from Unalaska Island west to Attu Island, a distance of approximately 1,000 miles. The region is vast with small population centers and is rich in resources and history. The AWCRSA was established in the unorganized borough in the Western Aleutians in 1987. It is governed by a seven-member citizen board with representatives from communities in the area. The AWCRSA is one of 35 coastal districts in Alaska that participate in Alaska's Coastal Management Program.

We also invite you to participate in public forums that will be held during the review period:

- **September 25, 2002, 6:30 p.m., Community Meeting** in Unalaska at the Unalaska City Library. Teleconference will be available.

- **September 27 – September 30, Community Meeting** will be arranged in Atka during this time period.
- **October 21, 2002, 7 p.m., Public Hearing**, in Unalaska at the Unalaska City Library. Teleconference will be available.

Comments may be provided through the Public Hearing or by mail, fax, or email to The Stadum Group **by October 30, 2002**. The AWCRSA, in its sole discretion, may choose to consider any one or more comments received after the deadline. The district may also, by further written notice to all plan recipients and by public notice, extend the deadline for comments.

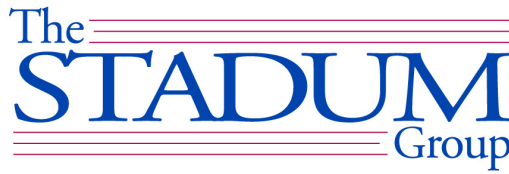
For special assistance, more information, or to request additional copies of the draft (the text and maps are available in both CD and paper format), contact The Stadum Group at 907-346-1930 or [stadum@alaska.net](mailto:stadum@alaska.net). You may also contact AWCRSA Program Director Karol Kolehmainen at (800) 207-6701 or [awcrsa@gci.net](mailto:awcrsa@gci.net).

Sincerely,

Mary S. Stadum

Enclosures





4321 E. 104th Avenue • Anchorage, Alaska 99507 • Ph/Fax: 907-346-1930 • Email: stadum@alaska.net

August 15, 2002

Dear Reviewer:

Enclosed are copies of Volumes I, II and III of the Public Hearing Draft for the revised Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA) Coastal Management Plan. Volume I is the *Coastal Resources Inventory and Environmental Sensitivity Maps*, Volume II is the *Resource Inventory and Analysis*, and Volume III is the *Goals, Objectives, Policies and Implementation*. We invite your review on these documents.

The AWCRSA provides this draft for your review and comment in accordance with state law at 6AAC 85.131. **Please note** that comment on the Public Hearing Draft is strongly encouraged. In accordance with state law at 6AAC 85.146(g), the right to comment on later versions of the plan is limited to those items you comment about in the Public Hearing Draft, or items that have changed since the Public Hearing Draft was issued. **The deadline for the receipt of all written and verbal comments is October 30, 2002.**

If your community comments on this plan, the AWCRSA must incorporate the comment into the next draft of the plan if the comment:

- Is in the form of a duly adopted resolution;
- Is received by the AWCRSA before the comment deadline;
- Discusses an element of the plan affecting resources or the use of resources within the corporate limits of the city or within two miles of the village; and
- Provides recommendation for a deletion or for an alternative to any language to which the city or village objects.

The revision of the AWCRSA Coastal Management Plan began in the fall of 2000, with preliminary work done in 1999-2000. Community meetings have been held in Atka, Nikolski, and Unalaska over the past two years to discuss the revision with local residents and to gather information. If approved, this plan will guide the AWCRSA's participation in the Alaska Coastal Management Program. Uses and activities in the AWCRSA's coastal zone that require local, state or federal authorization will be reviewed for consistency with this plan.

The AWCRSA encompasses all the islands of the Aleutian Chain from Unalaska Island west to Attu Island, a distance of approximately 1,000 miles. The region is vast with small population centers and is rich in resources and history. The AWCRSA was established in the unorganized borough in the Western Aleutians in 1987 and is governed by a seven-member citizen board

representing communities in the area. The AWCRSA is one of 35 coastal districts in Alaska that participate in Alaska's Coastal Management Program.

We also invite you to participate in public forums that will be held during the review period:

- **September 25, 2002, 6:30 p.m., Community Meeting** in Unalaska at the Unalaska City Library. Teleconference will be available.
- **September 27 – September 30, Community Meeting** will be arranged in Atka during this time period.
- **October 21, 2002, 7 p.m., Public Hearing**, in Unalaska at the Unalaska City Library. Teleconference will be available.

Comments may be provided through the Public Hearing or by mail, fax, or email to The Stadum Group **by October 30, 2002**. The AWCRSA may, in its discretion, consider and adopt a comment from a city or village within the AWCRSA that does not meet one or more of the specified conditions on page one of this letter. The AWCRSA may also choose to consider any one or more comments received after the deadline, and may, by further written notice to all plan recipients and by public notice, extend the deadline for comments.

For special assistance, more information, or to request additional copies of the draft (the text and maps are available in both CD and paper format), contact The Stadum Group at 907-346-1930 or [stadum@alaska.net](mailto:stadum@alaska.net). You may also contact AWCRSA Program Director Karol Kolehmainen at (800) 207-6701 or [awcrsa@gci.net](mailto:awcrsa@gci.net).

Sincerely,

Mary S. Stadum

Enclosures

Cc: AWCRSA Director and Board

# Public Notice

## Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area

### *Notice of Revision to AWCERSA*

### *Coastal Management Plan*

The AWCERSA invites public comment on the Public Hearing Draft of the AWCERSA revised Coastal Management Plan. **The deadline for the receipt of all written and verbal comments is October 30, 2002.**

The AWCERSA is providing opportunities for review and comment in accordance with state law at 6AAC 85.131. **Please note** that comment on the Public Hearing Draft is strongly encouraged. In accordance with state law at 6AAC 85.146(g), the right to comment on later versions of the plan is limited to those items you comment about in the Public Hearing Draft, or items that have changed since the Public Hearing Draft was issued.

If a community within the AWCERSA comments on this plan, the AWCERSA must incorporate the comment into the next draft of the plan if the comment meets the Requirements of state law at 6 AAC 85.131, including:

- Is in the form of a duly adopted resolution;
- Is received by the AWCERSA before the comment deadline;
- Discusses an element of the plan affecting resources or the use of resources within the corporate limits of the city or within two miles of the village; and
- Provides recommendation for a deletion or for an alternative to any language to which the city or village objects.

The AWCERSA is providing the following opportunities for public comment:

- **Tuesday, September 24, 7 p.m.,  
Presentation to Unalaska City Council**
- **Wednesday, September 25, 6:30 p.m.,  
Board & Community Meeting, Unalaska Library**
- **Thursday, September 26, 7 p.m.,  
Presentation to Unalaska City Planning Commission**
- **Monday, September 30, 6 p.m., (Atka time)  
Community Meeting, Atka Community Center**
- **Monday, October 21, 6:30 p.m., Public Hearing, Unalaska Library**

Comments may be provided through the Public Hearing, or by mail, fax, or email **by October 30, 2002** to The Stadum Group, 4321 E. 104<sup>th</sup> Ave., Anchorage, AK 99507.

Copies of the Public Hearing Draft are available at the Unalaska Library. For special assistance, more information, or to request additional copies of the draft (the text and maps are available in both CD and paper format), contact The Stadum Group at 907-346-1930 or [stadum@alaska.net](mailto:stadum@alaska.net). You may also contact AWCERSA Program Director Karol Kolehmainen at (800) 207-6701 or [awcersa@gci.net](mailto:awcersa@gci.net).

# Public Notice

## Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area

### *Notice of Revision to AWCERSA*

### *Coastal Management Plan*

The AWCERSA invites public comment on the Public Hearing Draft of the AWCERSA revised Coastal Management Plan. **The deadline for the receipt of all written and verbal comments is October 30, 2002.**

The AWCERSA is providing opportunities for review and comment in accordance with state law at 6AAC 85.131. **Please note** that comment on the Public Hearing Draft is strongly encouraged. In accordance with state law at 6AAC 85.146(g), the right to comment on later versions of the plan is limited to those items you comment about in the Public Hearing Draft, or items that have changed since the Public Hearing Draft was issued.

If a community within the AWCERSA comments on this plan, the AWCERSA must incorporate the comment into the next draft of the plan if the comment meets the Requirements of state law at 6 AAC 85.131, including:

- Is in the form of a duly adopted resolution;
- Is received by the AWCERSA before the comment deadline;
- Discusses an element of the plan affecting resources or the use of resources within the corporate limits of the city or within two miles of the village; and
- Provides recommendation for a deletion or for an alternative to any language to which the city or village objects.

The AWCERSA is providing the following opportunities for public comment:

- **Tuesday, September 24, 7 p.m.,  
Presentation to Unalaska City Council**
- **Wednesday, September 25, 6:30 p.m.,  
Board & Community Meeting, Unalaska Library**
- **Thursday, September 26, 7 p.m.,  
Presentation to Unalaska City Planning Commission**
- **Monday, September 30, 6 p.m., (Atka time)  
Community Meeting, Atka Community Center**
- **Monday, October 21, 6:30 p.m., Public Hearing, Unalaska Library**

Comments may be provided through the Public Hearing, or by mail, fax, or email **by October 30, 2002** to The Stadum Group, 4321 E. 104<sup>th</sup> Ave., Anchorage, AK 99507.

Copies of the Public Hearing Draft were provided to the City of Atka, Atka IRA Council, Atxam Corporation, Atka Clinic and Atka School. Leonty Lokanin is the AWCERSA Board member representing Atka. For special assistance, more information, or to request additional copies of the draft (the text and maps are available in both CD and paper format), contact The Stadum Group at 907-346-1930 or [stadum@alaska.net](mailto:stadum@alaska.net). You may also contact AWCERSA Program Director Karol Kolehmainen at (800) 207-6701 or [awcersa@gci.net](mailto:awcersa@gci.net).

# **Public Notice**

## **Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area**

### ***Notice of Revision to AWCRSA***

### ***Coastal Management Plan***

The AWCRSA invites public comment on the Public Hearing Draft of the AWCRSA revised Coastal Management Plan. **The deadline for the receipt of all written and verbal comments is October 30, 2002.**

The AWCRSA is providing opportunities for review and comment in accordance with state law at 6AAC 85.131. **Please note** that comment on the Public Hearing Draft is strongly encouraged. In accordance with state law at 6AAC 85.146(g), the right to comment on later versions of the plan is limited to those items you comment about in the Public Hearing Draft, or items that have changed since the Public Hearing Draft was issued.

If a community within the AWCRSA comments on this plan, the AWCRSA must incorporate the comment into the next draft of the plan if the comment meets the Requirements of state law at 6 AAC 85.131, including:

- Is in the form of a duly adopted resolution;
- Is received by the AWCRSA before the comment deadline;
- Discusses an element of the plan affecting resources or the use of resources within the corporate limits of the city or within two miles of the village; and
- Provides recommendation for a deletion or for an alternative to any language to which the city or village objects.

The AWCRSA is providing the following opportunities for public comment:

- **Tuesday, September 24, 7 p.m.,  
Presentation to Unalaska City Council**
- **Wednesday, September 25, 6:30 p.m.,  
Board & Community Meeting, Unalaska Library**
- **Thursday, September 26, 7 p.m.,  
Presentation to Unalaska City Planning Commission**
- **Monday, September 30, 6 p.m., (Atka time)  
Community Meeting, Atka Community Center**
- **Monday, October 21, 6:30 p.m., Public Hearing, Unalaska Library**

Comments may be provided through the Public Hearing, or by mail, fax, or email **by October 30, 2002** to The Stadum Group, 4321 E. 104<sup>th</sup> Ave., Anchorage, AK 99507.

Copies of the Public Hearing Draft were provided to the Nikolski Native Village, the Nikolski School, the Nikolski Clinic and to Agrafina Kerr, the AWCRSA Board member representing Nikolski. For special assistance, more information, or to request additional copies of the draft (the text and maps are available in both CD and paper format), contact The Stadum Group at 907-346-1930 or [stadum@alaska.net](mailto:stadum@alaska.net). You may also contact AWCRSA Program Director Karol Kolehmainen at (800) 207-6701 or [awcrsa@gci.net](mailto:awcrsa@gci.net).

# Fax

**To:** Roger Leff  
**Of:** KIAL/Channel 8  
**Fax:** (907) 581-1634  
**Phone:** (907) 581-1888

**Pages:**

**Date:** September 13, 2002

Here is a public service announcement for the TV Bulletin Board. Please run through September 25.

ALEUTIANS WEST CRSA WILL HOLD A BOARD AND COMMUNITY MEETING TO  
REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT OF THE REVISED  
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2002, 6:30 P.M.

UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY

COMMENT DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 30, 2002

September 19, 2002

Dutch Harbor Fisherman

**Aleutians West  
Coastal Resource Service Area**

Announces

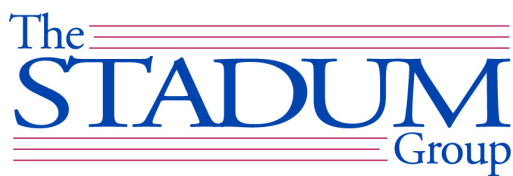
Meetings on the Revised  
Coastal Management Plan

**Review & Comment on the  
Public Hearing Draft of  
Volume I, Maps  
Volume II, Resource Inventory & Analysis  
Volume III, Goals, Objectives, Policies,  
Implementation**

- Tuesday, September 24, 7 p.m.,  
Presentation to Unalaska City Council
- Wednesday, September 25, 6:30 p.m.,  
Board & Community Meeting, Unalaska Library
- Thursday, September 26, 7 p.m.,  
Presentation to Unalaska City Planning  
Commission
- Monday, September 30, 6 p.m., (Atka time)  
Community Meeting, Atka Community Center
- Monday, October 21, 6:30 p.m., Public Hearing,  
Unalaska Library

***Comment Deadline: October 30, 2002***

**For more information, contact the AWCRSA  
1-800-207-6701, [awcrsa@gci.net](mailto:awcrsa@gci.net)  
or The Stadum Group 1-907-346-1930,  
[stadum@alaska.net](mailto:stadum@alaska.net)**



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4321 E. 104th Avenue • Anchorage, Alaska 99507 • Ph/Fax: 907-346-1930 • Email: stadum@alaska.net

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**For Immediate Release**

September 13, 2002

**For More Information, Contact:**

Mary Stadum  
The Stadum Group

**AWCRSA Coastal Plan Available for Comment**

The Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA) announces the opportunity for review and comment on the revised Coastal Management Plan for the Western Aleutians. Comments will be accepted until October 30, 2002 on Volumes I, II and III of the Public Hearing Draft of the plan. Volume I is the *Coastal Resources Inventory and Environmental Sensitivity Maps*, Volume II is the *Resource Inventory and Analysis*, and Volume III is the *Goals, Objectives, Policies and Implementation*.

During the comment period the AWCRSA will hold a Board of Directors and community meeting to review the Public Hearing Draft on Wednesday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. in Unalaska at the Unalaska Public Library. Members of the public, including residents of Unalaska, Atka, Nikolski, and Adak, along with representatives of agencies and organizations, are invited to attend. Teleconference will be available at 1-800-315-6338, code 2772#.

Comment on the Public Hearing Draft is strongly encouraged. In accordance with state law at 6AAC 85.146(g), the right to comment on later versions of the plan is limited to those items that are commented on in the Public Hearing Draft, or items that have changed since the Public Hearing Draft was issued. Copies of the Public Hearing Draft are available in Unalaska at the Unalaska Public Library.

In addition to the community meeting, the AWCRSA will present the Public Hearing Draft to a meeting of the Unalaska City Council on September 24 and to the City Planning Commission on September 26. A community meeting will be held in Atka on September 30. Following the community meetings, a formal public hearing will be held in Unalaska at the Public Library on October 21 at 6:30 p.m.

The revision of the AWCRSA Coastal Management Plan began in the fall of 2000, with preliminary work done in 1999-2000. Community meetings have been held in Atka, Nikolski, and Unalaska over the past two years to discuss the revision with local residents and gather information. The AWCRSA encompasses all the islands of the



Aleutian Chain from Unalaska Island west to Attu Island, a distance of approximately 1,000 miles. The region is vast with small population centers and is rich in resources and history. The AWCRSA was established in the unorganized borough in the Western Aleutians in 1987. It is governed by a seven-member citizen board with representatives from communities in the area. The AWCRSA is one of 35 coastal districts in Alaska that participate in Alaska's Coastal Management Program.

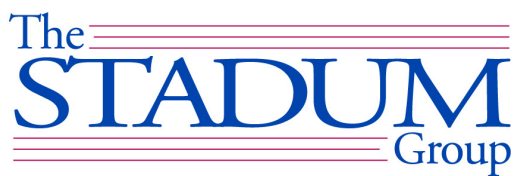
Comments may be provided through the Public Hearing, or by mail, fax, or email by October 30, 2002 to The Stadum Group, 4321 E. 104<sup>th</sup> Ave., Anchorage, AK 99507. For special assistance, more information, or to request additional copies of the draft (the text and maps are available in both CD and paper format), contact The Stadum Group at 907-346-1930 or [stadum@alaska.net](mailto:stadum@alaska.net). You may also contact AWCRSA Program Director Karol Kolehmainen at (800) 207-6701 or [awcrsa@gci.net](mailto:awcrsa@gci.net).

# Fax

**To:** Roger Leff  
**Of:** KIAL/Channel 8  
**Fax:** (907) 581-1634  
**Phone:** (907) 581-1888  
**Pages:**  
**Date:** October 8, 2002

Here is a public service announcement for the TV Bulletin Board. Please run through October 21.

ALEUTIANS WEST CRSA WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE  
COMMENTS ON THE PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT OF THE REVISED  
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 6:30 P.M.  
UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
COMMENT DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 30, 2002



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4321 E. 104th Avenue • Anchorage, Alaska 99507 • Ph/Fax: 907-346-1930 • Email: [stadum@alaska.net](mailto:stadum@alaska.net)

---

**For Immediate Release**

October 8, 2002

**For More Information, Contact:**

Mary Stadum  
The Stadum Group

**AWCRSA Will Hold Public Hearing**

The Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA) will hold a public hearing at the Unalaska City Library on October 21, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the revised Coastal Management Plan for the Western Aleutians. Teleconference will be available at 1-800-315-6338, code 2772#.

Comment on the Public Hearing Draft is strongly encouraged. In accordance with state law at 6AAC 85.146(g), the right to comment on later versions of the plan is limited to those items that are commented on in the Public Hearing Draft, or items that have changed since the Public Hearing Draft was issued. Copies of the Public Hearing Draft are available in Unalaska at the Unalaska Public Library.

Comments will be accepted until October 30, 2002 on Volumes I, II and III of the Public Hearing Draft of the plan. Volume I is the *Coastal Resources Inventory and Environmental Sensitivity Maps*, Volume II is the *Resource Inventory and Analysis*, and Volume III is the *Goals, Objectives, Policies and Implementation*.

The revision of the AWCRSA Coastal Management Plan began in the fall of 2000, with preliminary work done in 1999-2000. Community meetings have been held in Atka, Nikolski, and Unalaska over the past two years to discuss the revision with local residents and gather information. The AWCRSA encompasses all the islands of the Aleutian Chain from Unalaska Island west to Attu Island, a distance of approximately 1,000 miles. The region is vast with small population centers and is rich in resources and history. The AWCRSA was established in the unorganized borough in the Western Aleutians in 1987. It is governed by a seven-member citizen board with representatives from communities in the area. The AWCRSA is one of 35 coastal districts in Alaska that participate in Alaska's Coastal Management Program.

Comments may be provided through the Public Hearing, or by mail, fax, or email by October 30, 2002 to The Stadum Group, 4321 E. 104<sup>th</sup> Ave., Anchorage, AK 99507. For special assistance, more information, or to request additional copies of the draft (the text and maps are available in both CD and paper format), contact The Stadum Group

at 907-346-1930 or [stadum@alaska.net](mailto:stadum@alaska.net). You may also contact AWCRSA Program  
Director Karol Kolehmainen at (800) 207-6701 or [awcrsa@gci.net](mailto:awcrsa@gci.net).

April 11 & April 18, 2002  
Dutch Harbor Fisherman

# Help Shape the Future of Southwest Alaska

**Aleutians West  
Coastal Resource Service Area  
announces a  
Community Meeting on the Revision  
of the Coastal Management Plan**

**Saturday, April 20, 2002  
1:30 p.m., Unalaska Library**

**Review & Discussion on the  
Preliminary Public Hearing Draft of  
Volume II, Resource Inventory & Analysis  
Volume III, Goals, Objectives, Policies,  
Implementation**

**For more information, contact the Aleutians West  
Coastal Resource Service Area office  
1-800-207-6701 or awcrsa@gci.net**

# Fax

**To:** Roger Leff  
**Of:** KIAL/Channel 8  
**Fax:** (907) 581-1634  
**Phone:** (907) 581-1888  
**Pages:**  
**Date:** March 28, 2002

Here is a public service announcement for the TV Bulletin Board. Please run April 5 through April 20.

ALEUTIANS WEST CRSA WILL HOLD A COMMUNITY MEETING TO GATHER  
COMMENTS ON A DRAFT REVISED COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2002, AT 1:30 P.M.

UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY

**For Immediate Release**

March 28, 2002

**For More Information, Contact:**

Mary Stadum  
The Stadum Group

**AWCRSA to Review Draft Revised Coastal Plan**

The Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA) will hold a community meeting on Saturday, April 20, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. in Unalaska at the Unalaska Library.

The purpose of the meeting is to review Volumes II and III of the Preliminary Public Hearing Draft for the revised AWCRSA Coastal Management Plan. Volume II is the *Resource Inventory and Analysis*, and Volume III is the *Goals, Objectives, Policies and Implementation*. Volume I, the *Coastal Resources Inventory and Environmental Sensitivity Maps* was drafted and reviewed in 2001.

The revision of the AWCRSA Coastal Management Plan began in the fall of 2000, with preliminary work done in 1999-2000. Community meetings have been held in Atka, Nikolski, and Unalaska over the past two years to discuss the revision with local residents and gather information.

The AWCRSA Board and staff are asking for comments on the two draft volumes, prior to submitting them to the State of Alaska Department of Governmental Coordination for approval as a Public Hearing Draft. Once approval is received from the State of Alaska, all three volumes of the draft will be circulated during the remainder of 2002 and early 2003 for review and comment, prior to final approval of the revised plan.

The AWCRSA encompasses all the islands of the Aleutian Chain from Unalaska Island west to Attu Island, a distance of approximately 1,000 miles. The region is vast with small population centers and is rich in resources and history. The AWCRSA was established in the unorganized borough in the Western Aleutians in 1987. It is governed by a seven-member citizen board with representatives from communities in the area. The AWCRSA is one of 35 coastal districts in Alaska that participate in Alaska's Coastal Management Program.

For more information or to request a copy of the draft, contact The Stadum Group at 907-346-1930 or [stadum@alaska.net](mailto:stadum@alaska.net). You may also contact AWCRSA Program Director Karol Kolehmainen at (800) 207-6701 or [awcrsa@gci.net](mailto:awcrsa@gci.net).

# **Teleconference Community Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 26, 5:30 p.m.**

## **Atka Community Hall**

Come for an Update on the

Coastal Management Plan Revision

For the

Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area

- Update on Schedule and Progress
  - Opportunity to Ask Questions
  - Discuss Revised Policies

The first complete draft will be sent out to communities and agencies in late March, and a meeting will be held in Unalaska on  
April 20, 2002

For more information, call Leonty Lokanin, the Atka representative to the AWCERSA Board at 839-2322 or at City Hall at 839-2233



# Help Shape the Future of Southwest Alaska

**Aleutians West  
Coastal Resource Service Area  
announces a  
Public Work Session on the Revision  
of the Coastal Management Plan**

**Friday, November 2, 2001  
7 p.m., Unalaska Library**

**Review & Discussion on  
2001-2002 Plan Revision Activities  
And Enforceable Policies**

**For more information, contact the Aleutians West  
Coastal Resource Service Area office  
1-800-207-6701 or [awcrsa@gci.net](mailto:awcrsa@gci.net)**

**November 2, 2001**

**TO: \_\_\_\_\_ Unalaska City Clerk    FAX # 581-1417**  
**Atka City Clerk    FAX# 839-2234**  
**Nikolski Village Council    576-2205**

**FROM: Karol Kolehmainen, Program Director**

TELEPHONE: 800 207-6701/Fax 745-6711

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover): 2

COMMENTS: Please distribute the attached notice to anyone you think may be interested. Thanks

**Please note this is change 2.**

**Please note that this is a second change!**

**AWCRSA COMMUNITY WORKSHOP  
CONTINUATION NOTICE  
Tuesday, November 6, 2001 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Unalaska Public Library**

Due to weather complications, a portion of the public meeting and community workshop begun on Friday November 2 will be continued on Tuesday, November 6 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Mary Stadum of The Stadum Group will provide information regarding the coastal plan revision process and continue work on the Policy section. The revised draft Resource Inventory Atlas will also be available. The public is encouraged and welcome to attend both sessions.

For more information, materials, or to attend by teleconference, please contact the AWCRSA administrative office, toll free, at  
1-800-207-6701.

## **Help Shape the Future**

### **Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area Public Work Sessions for the Revision of the Coastal Management Plan**

#### **Review Draft Resource Inventory & Analysis**

Friday, June 29, 2001  
7 p.m., Unalaska Library

#### **Goals & Objectives Strategy Session**

Saturday, June 30, 2001  
1 p.m., Unalaska Library

Review Copies Available:  
Unalaska Library

For more information, contact the Aleutians West  
Coastal Resource Service Area office  
1-800-207-6701 or [awcrsa@ptialaska.net](mailto:awcrsa@ptialaska.net)

# **NOTICE OF WORK SESSIONS**

**Friday June 29, 2001 7:00 p.m.**

**Unalaska Public Library**

And

**Saturday, June 30, 2001 1:00 p.m.**

**Unalaska Public Library**

The AWCRSA Board will conduct two work sessions as part of their continuing coastal management plan revision. The Friday meeting will address the compiled draft of the Resource Inventory and Analysis. The Saturday session will consist of a strategy session to begin work on goals and objectives for the coastal program. The public is encouraged to attend these sessions and provide input.

For more information, please contact the AWCRSA administrative office, toll free, at  
1-800-207-6701.

## **Coastal Management Plan Update – Atka IRA Council News**

The update of the coastal management plan for the western Aleutians is continuing. Following a meeting in Atka and other communities last fall, information has been gathered about communities, the region, and biological and natural resources.

Atka's representative on the Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA) board is Leonty Lokanin. Leonty has been participating in a number of AWCRSA board meetings, reviewing materials, and discussing information and updates. Mary Stadum of The Stadum Group, a consultant in Anchorage, has been working with the AWCRSA Board and Director Karol Kolehmainen, to update the plan.

The update of the AWCRSA coastal management plan will take several years, and this year's work includes updating the Resource Inventory and Analysis and the Resource Inventory Atlas. At the community meeting in Atka last fall, community members reviewed the old AWCRSA atlas and provided comments and information. This information was given to Research Planning Inc., the consulting firm that is working with the AWCRSA Board and The Stadum Group to develop the maps for the new atlas.

The draft maps were sent out in late March to Atka and the other western Aleutian communities for review. The AWCRSA board reviewed the maps in late April and made a number of comments. Leonty Lokanin gathered comments for Atka. The maps will now be revised based on comments provided.

Another draft of the Resource Inventory and Analysis with all the information gathered and revised will be distributed in early June for review. A meeting will be held in Unalaska on June 29 to review the draft Resource Inventory and Analysis and on June 30 to discuss and begin developing goals and objectives for each community in the Western Aleutians.

For more information, contact Leonty Lokanin in Atka or the AWCRSA Program Director Karol Kolehmainen at 1-800-207-6701.

May 7, 2001

Mayor Agafon Krukoff, Jr.  
City of Adak  
P. O. Box 1999  
Adak, AK 99546-1961

Dear Agafon:

It was good to talk with you again today. It's been a while since the SWAMC Days. Again, congratulations on becoming mayor. I'm sure you do have your hands full with the city and with the Adak Reuse Corporation. I've written Cynthia's name down to contact when you are unavailable.

As a little background, the current management plan for the Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA) was written in 1990 and 1991. There are three volumes: *Volume I: Resource Inventory Atlas*; *Volume II: Resource Inventory and Analysis*; and *Volume III: Coastal Management Plan*. The scope of work for this year is to revise *Volume I: Resource Inventory Atlas*, *Volume II: Resource Inventory and Analysis*, and begin work on *Volume III: Coastal Management Plan*, by beginning discussions on goals and objective for the future. The update of the entire plan is expected to take an additional two years.

As I told you, Adak falls within the geographical boundary of the AWCRSA, but Adak was excluded in the past because of its military status. Since the land ownership is changing and Adak has become a city, that entire issue will need to be revisited with the State's Alaska Coastal Management Program representatives. In the meantime, we want to keep you in the loop for the AWCRSA planning, as much as possible, so we'll add you to our regular contact list and try to keep you up to speed.

As we discussed, attached is a draft profile for Adak to be included in the Resource Inventory. The AWCRSA Board has already reviewed and commented on the profile; however, I still need to make revisions, which will probably take until the end of May. If you have comments or additional information, please provide them to me by May 21. I did provide a copy of this information to Sandra Moller with the Aleut Enterprise Corporation.

I will also mail you a copy of the draft maps for the Resource Inventory Atlas. We are expecting to make some rather extensive revisions in format and are working with the mapping subcontractor at this time; however, we may still be able to include some revisions or comments, if you provide them fairly quickly. I also provided a set of maps to the Aleut Enterprise Corporation for their review.

Again, keep your calendar marked for the meeting in Unalaska on June 29, when we will discuss the complete draft of the Resource Inventory and Analysis and June 30 when we will begin discussions on goals and objectives. As I said, I'm the consultant assisting the AWCRSA

with their coastal management plan update. We will keep you in the loop for information, and I'm sending a copy of this letter to Karol Kolehmainen, AWCRSA Director, and Bill Bradshaw, AWCRSA Board President.

Please don't hesitate to contact Karol at 1-800-207-6701 in Palmer, myself at 907-346-1930 in Anchorage, or Bill in Unalaska at 907- 581-3743. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Mary S. Stadum  
The Stadum Group

Cc: Karol Kolehmainen  
Bill Bradshaw  
John Gliva



April 25, 2001

I am writing to ask your assistance with the update of the coastal management plan for the Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA). Enclosed are copies of the draft updated maps for the AWCRSA, and we invite your review and comment.

The draft maps were prepared by Research Planning, Inc. in South Carolina, through a partnership between the AWCRSA, the Aleutians East Borough, the Prince William Sound Oil Spill Recovery Institute, Alaska Chadux Corporation, and the U.S. Coast Guard. I am the consultant hired by the AWCRSA to assist the board and staff in the plan update.

The current management plan for the AWCRSA was written in 1990 and 1991. There are three volumes: *Volume I: Resource Inventory Atlas*; *Volume II: Resource Inventory and Analysis*; *Volume III: Coastal Management Plan*. The enclosed maps will replace the 1990 Volume I, and we will have a draft of Volume II available for review by June 1. The update of the entire plan is expected to take an additional two years.

The draft maps have been distributed to the AWCRSA Board of Directors, Aleutians West communities, and agencies and organizations that have involvement in the Coastal Management Plan and/or have provided information to assist us in updating the coastal plan and the maps.

Please provide your comments by May 11. You may provide comments to The Stadum Group in writing, by email (stadum@alaska.net) or by calling me at 907-346-1930. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. We appreciate your participation and assistance.

Sincerely,

Mary S. Stadum  
The Stadum Group

Enclosures

## **Atka Reviews Coastal Plan**

Atka community members met at the Community Hall on November 1 to help develop a new coastal management plan for Atka and the Western Aleutians. The Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA) is the coastal district that includes Atka, Nikolski, Unalaska, and the Western Aleutians. The AWCRSA has a board of directors with local representatives from each community, and Leonty Lokanin represents Atka on the board.

Last year the AWCRSA board discussed updating the coastal management plan, which is about 10 years old. They held community meetings to discuss how the update should be done and what information should be included. This year in late October and early November community meetings were held in Unalaska, Atka, and Nikolski to ask community members for help in updating the coastal plan.

About eight Atka residents turned out for the community meeting to learn how the coastal management plan will be updated and how they can participate. Community members looked at the old coastal management plan maps and marked changes and provided new information. They also reviewed information on Atka in the old *Resource Inventory* and provided corrections and new information.

AWCRSA Program Director Karol Kolehmainen and AWCRSA Board President Bill Bradshaw traveled to Atka for the meeting, along with Mary Stadum of The Stadum Group, who is a consultant working on the plan update.

Draft revised maps and draft revised information will be sent to Atka after the first of the year for community members to review and comment before the maps and the Resource Inventory are completed. The entire coastal management plan update process will take two more years. More information will be updated next year, and the last year will include many reviews before the plan is finally completed.

For more information, contact AWCRSA Program Director Karol Kolehmainen at 1-800-207-6701.

# Alaska's Coast

## Help Shape the Future

**Bring your Ideas and Come to  
A Community Workshop on Coastal Management  
For the Western Aleutians**

**Unalaska: October 30, 2000  
7 p.m., Unalaska Library**

**Atka, November 1, 2000  
7 p.m., Community Center**

**Nikolski, November 2, 2000  
7 p.m., Nikolski School**

**For more information, contact the Aleutians West  
Coastal Resource Service Area office  
1-800-207-6701 or [awcrsa@otialaska.net](mailto:awcrsa@otialaska.net)**

# Fax

**To:** Roger Leff  
**Of:** KIAL/Channel 8  
**Fax:** (907) 581-1634  
**Phone:** (907) 581-1888  
**Pages:**  
**Date:** October 16, 2000

Here is public service information for TV Bulletin Board. Please run October 16 through October 30, 2000.

ALEUTIANS WEST CRSA WILL HOLD A COMMUNITY WORKSHOP TO GATHER  
INFORMATION TO UPDATE THE COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2000 AT 7 P.M.

UNALASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY

A BRIEF BOARD MEET WILL BE HELD AT 6 P.M.

**For Immediate Release**

October 7, 2000

**For More Information, Contact:**

Mary Stadum  
The Stadum Group

**AWCRSA to Update Coastal Plan**

The Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area (AWCRSA) will hold a community workshop on Monday, October 30 at 7 p.m. in Unalaska at the Unalaska Library, immediately following the 6 p.m. AWCRSA Board meeting. The workshop will kick off the second phase of an update to the coastal management plan for the Western Aleutians.

Additional community workshops will be held in Atka on November 1, in Nikolski on November 2, and in Adak during the second week of November.

The update phase for 2000-2001 will focus on updating *Volume I, Resource Inventory Atlas* and *Volume II, Resource Inventory and Analysis*. The AWCRSA Board and staff are looking for updated information concerning natural resources, human resources, and the economy in the Western Aleutians. The AWCRSA encompasses all the islands of the Aleutian Chain from Unalaska Island west to Attu Island, a distance of approximately 1,000 miles. The region is vast with small population centers and rich in resources and history.

During 1999-2000 the AWCRSA participated in the first phase of a plan update, which was a "scoping process," to determine if a plan update was needed and to lay out a framework for that update. The current plan was generally viewed as a well-designed, solid plan that provided guidance for the past 10 years, but there was consensus that it was due for an update.

The AWCRSA was established in the unorganized borough in the Western Aleutians in 1987. It is governed by a seven-member citizen board with representatives from communities in the area. The AWCRSA is one of 35 coastal districts in Alaska that participate in Alaska's Coastal Management Program (ACMP), which was established in 1977, following the passage of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act in 1972.

For more information, contact AWCRSA Program Director Karol Kolehmainen at (907) 745-6700 or [awcrsa@ptialaska.net](mailto:awcrsa@ptialaska.net) or The Stadum Group.

**For Immediate Release**

October 24, 2000

**For More Information, Contact:**

Mary Stadum  
The Stadum Group

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The AWCRSA was established in the unorganized borough in the Western Aleutians in 1987. It is governed by a seven-member citizen board with representatives from communities in the area. The AWCRSA is one of 35 coastal districts in Alaska that participate in Alaska's Coastal Management.

For more information, contact AWCRSA Program Director Karol Kolehmainen at (800) 207-6701 or [awcrsa@ptialaska.net](mailto:awcrsa@ptialaska.net) or The Stadum Group at 907-346-1930 or [stadum@alaska.net](mailto:stadum@alaska.net).

# **Alaska's Coast**

## **Help Shape the Future**

### **Bring your Ideas to a Community Workshop on Coastal Management for Atka and the Western Aleutians**

- What is special about the coast near Atka?
- Help identify the fish and wildlife and plants near Atka
- How should Atka develop and protect its resources  
in the next 10 years?

**Wednesday, November 1, 2000  
7 p.m., Atka Community Center**

**For more information, contact your local board member,  
Leonty Lokanin at 839-2359 or**

**Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area office  
1-800-207-6701 or [awcrsa@ptialaska.net](mailto:awcrsa@ptialaska.net)**

# **Alaska's Coast**

## **Help Shape the Future**

**Bring your Ideas to a Community Workshop  
on Coastal Management  
for Nikolski and the Western Aleutians**

- What is special about the coast near Nikolski?
- Help identify the fish and wildlife and plants near Nikolski
- How should Nikolski develop and protect its resources in the next 10 years?

**Thursday, November 2, 2000  
7 p.m., Nikolski School**

**For more information, contact your local board member,  
Agrafina Kerr at 576-2239 or**

**Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area office  
1-800-207-6701 or [awcrsa@ptialaska.net](mailto:awcrsa@ptialaska.net)**



# **Alaska's Coast**

## **Help Shape the Future**

**Bring your Ideas to a Community Workshop  
on Coastal Management  
for Unalaska and the Western Aleutians**

- What is special about the coast near Unalaska?
- Help identify the fish and wildlife and plants near Unalaska
- How should Unalaska develop and protect its resources in the next 10 years?

**Monday, October 30, 2000  
7 p.m., Unalaska Library**

**For more information, contact your local board chairman, Bill  
Bradshaw at 581-3743 or**

**Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area office  
1-800-207-6701 or [awcrsa@ptialaska.net](mailto:awcrsa@ptialaska.net)**

# **Appendix B**

## **Mailing List**



# **Appendix C**

## **“C List”**

### **11 AAC 110.750**

Individual Project Reviews (May 2004)

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

30-day ***Permit to apply pesticides*** to waters of the State, aerial application on public or private land, and right-of-way applications for pesticide use which fall under the purview of the DEC permit to apply pesticides. See also B List GCD-9.

AS 46.03.320  
18 AAC 15  
18 AAC 90.500  
18 AAC 90.505

50-day Transfer, storage, and disposal (TSD) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) ***Hazardous Waste***. See also GCDs 11, 12, and 45.

AS 46.03.302  
18 AAC 63

50-day ***Air quality control construction permit that approves air emissions***. See also A List and B List GCDs 13, 13A, 26, and 27 and DEC General Permits in Section II of the B List.

AS 46.14.120  
AS 46.14.130  
18 AAC 15  
18 AAC 50

50-day ***Air quality control operating permit that approves air emissions***. See also B List GCD's 13, 13A, 26, 27, and DEC General Permits in Section II of the B List.

AS 46.14.120  
AS 46.14.130  
18 AAC 15  
18 AAC 50

50-day ***Solid waste disposal permit***. See also DEC General Permits in Section II of the B List.

AS 46.03.020  
AS 46.03.100  
AS 46.03.110  
AS 46.03.120  
18 AAC 15  
18 AAC 60

50-day ***Reclassification of State waters***

AS 46.03.020  
18 AAC 15  
18 AAC 70.230

50-day ***Waste disposal permit*** (wastewater discharge). See also DEC General Permits in Section II of the B List.

AS 46.03.020  
AS 46.03.100 and 110  
AS 46.03.120 and 710  
18 AAC 15  
18 AAC 70  
18 AAC 72

50-day 401 Certification-***Certificate of Reasonable Assurance Section 401***. See also  
Nationwide Permits and federal agency General Permits in Section II of the B List.

AS 46.03.020  
18 AAC 15  
18 AAC 70  
18 AAC 72

50-day ***Oil discharge contingency plans*** for offshore facilities and onshore fuel storage  
facilities with a capacity of 10,000 barrels or greater.

AS 46.04.030  
AS 46.04.050  
18 AAC 75.400 – 496

50-day ***Oil discharge contingency plans*** for oil tankers and oil barges.

AS 46.04.030  
18 AAC 75.400 - 496

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

50-day ***Permit to operate a clam dredge***

5 AAC 38.050

50-day ***Aquatic farm and hatchery permit***.

AS 16.40.100  
5 AAC 41

30-day\* ***Special Area Permit***. See also A List and B List GCDs 1, 1A, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 15A, 19,  
22, 23, 23B, 23C, 23D, 23E, 24, 37, 41, 42, and 43.

AS 16.20  
5 AAC 95

30-day ***Hatchery permit*** (Private Non-Profit)

AS 16.10.400 - 430

\*Complex or large projects may be reviewed under a 50-day review schedule at DFG's  
discretion.

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### Division of Agriculture

#### *I. Disposals<sup>2</sup>*

50-day ***Lease*** of cleared or drained agricultural land

AS 38.07

50-day ***Disposal of agricultural interest***

AS 38.05.321  
11 AAC 67.167 – 188

#### *II. Permits and Other Approvals*

50-day ***Approval of application*** for clearing or draining of agricultural land in vicinity of State  
land. See also B List GCD-17.

AS 38.07.030

## **Division of Mining, Land and Water**

### *I. Disposals*

50-day ***Aquatic farming and hatchery lease.***

AS 38.05.083  
 11 AAC 63

50-day ***Coal lease sales***

AS 38.05.150  
 11 AAC 85

30 or 50-day ***Coal prospecting permit***

AS 38.05.145  
 AS 38.05.150(c)  
 11 AAC 85.110

50-day ***Disposal of land by auction or lottery***

AS 38.05.050 - 057  
 11 AAC 67

50-day ***Grazing lease.*** See also B List GCD-17.

AS 38.05.070  
 AS 38.05.075  
 11 AAC 60

50-day ***Homestead Disposal.***

AS 38.09  
 11 AAC 67.138 – 155

50-day ***Lease, sale, grant, or other disposal.*** See also A List and B List GCD's 15A, 30, 33, 38, 47, and 48.

AS 38.05.070-075  
 11 AAC 58  
 11 AAC 60

50-day ***Lease of Tidelands***

AS 38.05.070-075  
 11 AAC 62

50-day ***Material Sales, except sales from approved upland sources and personal use contracts.*** See also A List and B List GC-50.

AS 38.05.110 - 120  
 11 AAC 71

50-day ***Offshore mining lease and sale.***

AS 38.05.145  
 AS 38.05.250  
 11 AAC 86.530 – 580

30 or 50-day ***Offshore mining prospecting permit.***

AS 38.05.250(a)  
 11 AAC 86.500 – 535

30 or 50-day ***Oil and natural gas pipeline right-of-way leasing.*** See also B List GCD-47.

AS 38.35  
 11 AAC 80.005 - 055

30 or 50-day <b>Phosphate lease.</b>	AS 38.05.145 AS 38.05.155 11 AAC 84.200
30 or 50-day <b>Potassium compound prospecting permit and lease.</b>	AS 38.05.145 AS 38.05.175 11 AAC 84.600
30 or 50-day <b>Right of way or easement permit for roads, trails, ditches, pipelines, drill sites, log storage, telephone or transmission lines, outfall lines, or access corridors.</b> See also B List GCD's 7, 15A, 22, 23, 35, 46, 47, and 48.	AS 38.05.850 11 AAC 51
30 or 50-day <b>Sodium compound prospecting permit and lease.</b>	AS 38.05.145 AS 38.05.165 11 AAC 84.400
30 or 50-day <b>Sulphur prospecting permit and lease.</b>	AS 38.05.145 AS 38.05.170 11 AAC 84.500
50-day <b>Tideland Conveyance.</b> See also A List.	AS 38.05.820 AS 38.05.821 AS 38.05.825 11 AAC 62
30 or 50-day <b>Upland mining lease.</b>	AS 38.05.185 AS 38.05.205 11 AAC 86.300 – 350
30-day <b>Water use permit.</b> See also A List and B List GCD's 1, 1A, *, 24, 25, 34, and 35.	AS 46.15 11 AAC 93

## *II. Permits and Other Approvals*

30 or 50-day <b>Approvals subject to the Alaska Surface Coal Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), other than Notices of Intent to Explore.</b> See also A List.	AS 27.21.030 AS 27.21.060 11 AAC 90.001
30-day General <b>land use permits</b> , except for those classified as categorically consistent (A List) or generally consistent (B List) approvals. See A List and GCDs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 15A, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 23A, 23C, 23D, 23E, 24, 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 49.	AS 38.05.850



30-day ***Miscellaneous land use permit for mining activity or mineral exploration.*** See also  
A List and B List GCD's 1A and 29.

AS 38.05.020  
AS 38.05.035  
AS 38.05.850  
11 AAC 96

30-day ***Mining reclamation plan approval.*** See also B List GCD's 1A and 29.

AS 27.19  
11 AAC 97

50-day ***Approval of plan of operations or plan of development on leased lands (Deadline does not apply when the plan is included in the lease at the time of the sale.)***

AS 38.05.035  
AS 38.05.070 - 075  
11 AAC 62.700

50-day ***Plans of operations on leased lands or land subject to an offshore prospecting permit.***

AS 38.05.020  
AS 38.05.035  
11 AAC 96

50-day ***Material mining reclamation plan approvals.*** See also A List and B List GCD's  
1A and GC-29.

AS 27.19  
11 AAC 97

30-day ***Temporary water use permits for water withdrawals, except for withdrawals from sources classified as categorically consistent or generally consistent approvals.***

See also A List and B List GCD's 1, 1A, 8, 24, 25, 35, and 36.

AS 46.15.155  
11 AAC 93

30-day ***Tideland use permit.*** See also A List and GCDs noted above for land use permits.

AS 38.05.850  
11 AAC 96

## **Division of Oil and Gas**

### ***I. Disposals***

50-day ***Oil and gas licenses and leases***

AS 38.05.131 - 134  
AS 38.05.135  
AS 38.05.145  
AS 38.05.180  
11 AAC 83

30 or 50-day ***Geothermal lease sales***

AS 38.05.145  
AS 38.05.181

11 AAC 84.700 – 790

30 or 50-day **Oil shale lease**

AS 38.05.145  
11 AAC 84.300

## *II. Permits and Other Approvals*

30-day **Application to drill geothermal wells**

AS 41.06.050

50-day **Plan of operations** on lease lands. See also A List and B List GCDs 34, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 49.

AS 38.05.135  
AS 38.05.145  
AS 38.05.180  
11 AAC 83.158

30-day **Geophysical exploration permit**. See also B List GCD-25.

AS 38.05.020  
AS 38.05.035  
AS 38.05.180  
11 AAC 96

30 or 50-day **Geothermal prospecting permit**

AS 38.05.145  
AS 38.05.181(g)  
11 AAC 84.700 – 790

## **Office of Habitat Management and Permitting**

### *I. Permits and Other Approvals*

30-day **Fish habitat permit**. See also A List and GCDs 1, 1A, 2, 4, 5, 5A, 6, 7, 8, 15A, 22, 24, 25, 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50.

AS 41.14.840  
AS 41.14.870

## **Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation**

### *I. Permits and Other Approvals*

30-day **Authorization to construct structure** in State parks. See also B List GCD-15.

AS 41.21.020  
11 AAC 12.140  
11 AAC 18.010

30-day **Authorization to use explosives** in State parks. See also A List.

AS 41.21.020  
11 AAC 12.195  
11 AAC 18.010

50-day **Permit for access** across State parks. See also B List GCD-14.

AS 41.21.024  
11 AAC 18.010

30-day ***Special use permit***. See also A List and B List GCDs 14, 15, 15A, 16, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 41, and 43.

AS 41.21.020  
11 AAC 18.010

50-day ***Archaeological Permit*** for the excavation of historic or archeological resources. See also A List and B List GCD-31 and GCD-36.

AS 41.35.080  
11 AAC 16.030 - 080

## Appendix D

# DEFINITIONS

**ACMP** is the Alaska Coastal Management Program.

**Active floodplain of watercourses** is the portion of a floodplain that is periodically inundated or encompassed by a mean annual flood (Q = 2.33 flood frequency) and is characterized by active flowing channels, high water channels and adjacent unvegetated or sparsely vegetated bars.

**Adjacent** has the same meaning as in State law.

*11 AAC 112.990 (a) (2) "adjacent" means near but not necessarily touching; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)*

**AMSA** has the same meaning as in State law.

*AS 46.40.210 (1) "area which merits special attention" means a delineated geographic area within the coastal area which is sensitive to change or alteration and which, because of plans or commitments or because a claim on the resources within the area delineated would preclude subsequent use of the resources to a conflicting or incompatible use, warrants special management attention, or which, because of its value to the general public, should be identified for current or future planning, protection, or acquisition; these areas, subject to council definition of criteria for their identification, include:*

- (A) areas of unique, scarce, fragile or vulnerable natural habitat, cultural value, historical significance, or scenic importance;*
- (B) areas of high natural productivity or essential habitat for living resources;*
- (C) areas of substantial recreational value or opportunity;*
- (D) areas where development of facilities is dependent upon the utilization of, or access to, coastal water;*
- (E) areas of unique geologic or topographic significance which are susceptible to industrial or commercial development;*
- (F) areas of significant hazard due to storms, slides, floods, erosion, or settlement; and*
- (G) areas needed to protect, maintain, or replenish coastal land or resources, including coastal flood plains, aquifer recharge areas, beaches, and offshore sand deposits;*

**Aquatic Farming** means the growing, farming, or cultivating of aquatic plants, fish, or shellfish in captivity or under positive control to be sold or offered for sale.

**Avoid** has the same meaning as in State law.

**11 AAC 112.900. Sequencing process to avoid, minimize, or mitigate.** (a) *As used in this chapter and for purposes of district enforceable policies developed under 11 AAC 114, "avoid, minimize, or mitigate" means a sequencing process of*  
(1) *avoiding adverse impacts to the maximum extent practicable; (2) where avoidance is not practicable, minimizing adverse impacts to the maximum extent practicable; or (3) if neither avoidance nor minimization is practicable, conducting mitigation to the extent appropriate and practicable; for purposes of this paragraph, "mitigation" means*  
(A) *on-site rehabilitation of project impacts to affected coastal resources during or at the end of the life of the project; or*  
(B) *to the extent on-site rehabilitation of project impacts is not practicable, substituting, if practicable, rehabilitation of or an improvement to affected coastal resources within the district, either on-site or off-site, for a coastal resource that is unavoidably impacted.*  
(b) *For a project that requires a federal authorization identified under 11 AAC 110.400, the coordinating agency shall consult with the authorizing federal agency during that federal agency's authorization review process to determine whether the mitigation requirements proposed by the federal agency for that federal authorization would satisfy the mitigation requirements of (a)(3) of this section. If the coordinating agency determines that the mitigation requirements proposed by the federal agency would not satisfy the mitigation requirements of (a)(3) of this section, the coordinating agency shall require appropriate mitigation in accordance with (a)(3) of this section.*  
(c) *For purposes of (a)(3) of this section, a determination of practicability includes the consideration of the following factors, as applicable: (1) the magnitude of the functional values lost by the impacted coastal resources;*  
(2) *the likelihood that the mitigation measure or improvement will succeed in actually rehabilitating the impacted coastal resources; and*  
(3) *the correlation between the functional values lost by the coastal resources impacted and the proposed mitigation measure or improvement.*  
(d) *To the extent feasible and not otherwise addressed by state or federal law, any requirements imposed under (a)(3) of this section for mitigation through on-site or off-site rehabilitation of project impacts shall be established by the coordinating agency at the time of the project's consistency review under 11 AAC 110.*  
(e) *In applying the mitigation process described in (a)(3) of this section, unless required by a federal agency issuing an authorization identified under 11 AAC 110.400 for the project, the coordinating agency may not require*  
(1) *that no net loss of impacted coastal resources occur; or*  
(2) *monetary compensation. (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)*

**Base Flood** means the flood having one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Also referred to as the 100-year flood.

**Coastal Processes** are the collective results of physical, oceanographic, and meteorologic influences on the geographic landforms and nearshore waters of the Lake and Peninsula Borough. Coastal processes are also influenced by freshwater discharges from major river drainage systems and suspended sediments transported by rivers to coastal waters. Key features of coastal processes are shoreline erosion and accretion.

**Coastal Waters** has the same meaning as in state law.

*11 AAC 112.990. Definitions. (6) "coastal water" means those waters, adjacent to the shorelines, that contain a measurable quantity or percentage of sea water, including sounds, bays, lagoons, ponds, estuaries, and tidally influenced waters; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)*

**Consistency** means compliance with the standards of the ACMP, including the enforceable policies of this approved coastal plan.

**Consistent to the maximum extent practicable** means that federal government activities or uses, including development projects affecting the coastal zone of Alaska, are fully consistent with the standards of the ACMP unless compliance would violate another federal law (15 CFR 930.32.(a)).

**Cumulative Impacts** has the same meaning as in State law.

*11 AAC 110.990. Definitions. (a) (19) "cumulative impacts" means reasonably foreseeable effects on a coastal use or resource that result from the incremental impact of an individual project when viewed together with the impacts of past and currently authorized projects; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170)*

**DEC** is the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

**DF&G** is the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**Direct and significant impact** has the same meaning as in State law.

*11 AAC 114.990. Definitions. (13) "direct and significant impact" means an effect of a use, or an activity associated with the use, that will proximately contribute to a material change or alteration of the coastal waters, and in which*  
*(A) the use, or activity associated with the use, would have a net adverse effect on the quality of the resources;*  
*(B) the use, or activity associated with the use, would limit the range of alternative uses of the resources; or*  
*(C) the use would, of itself, constitute a tolerable change or alteration of the resources but which, cumulatively, would have an adverse effect; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)*

**Development** means any man-made change to improved or unimproved lands and coastal waters, including but not limited to, buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling.

**DNR** is the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

**Due deference** has the same meaning as in State Law.

*11 AAC 110.990. Definitions. (a) (25) "due deference" means that deference that is appropriate in the context of  
(A) the commentor's expertise or area of responsibility; and  
(B) all the evidence available to support any factual assertions of the commentor; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170)*

**Environmentally Responsible** means consistent with coastal resource protection and performance standards of this plan, and incorporating current best management practices with protection measures commensurate with the values of habitats affected.

**Estuary** has the same meaning as in State law.

*11 AAC 11.990 Definitions. (11) "estuary" means a semiclosed coastal body of water that has a free connection with the sea and within which seawater is measurably diluted with freshwater derived from land drainage; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)*

**Facilities related to commercial fishing and seafood processing** has the same meaning as in State law.

*11 AAC 114.990. Definitions. (17) "facilities related to commercial fishing and seafood processing" includes hatcheries and related facilities, seafood processing plants and support facilities, marine industrial and commercial facilities, and aquaculture facilities;  
(Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)*

**Feasible and prudent** means consistent with sound engineering practice and not causing environmental, social, or economic problems that outweigh the public benefit to be derived from compliance with the standard which is modified by the term "feasible and prudent".

**Floodway** means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height, usually one foot, at any point.

**Geophysical Hazard** is a condition created by a geological process, topography, water drainage, or unique weather condition that presents a significant hazard to life and property.

**Important fishing areas** are areas used consistently over time for commercial, sport, or subsistence fishing. Fishing includes harvesting marine invertebrates and plants.

**Important habitats** has the same meaning as in State law.

**11 AAC 112.300. Habitats.** (c) For purposes of this section,  
(1) **"important habitat"** means habitats listed in (a)(1) – (8) of this section and other habitats in the coastal area that are  
(A) designated under 11 AAC 114.250(h);  
(B) identified by the department as a habitat  
(i) the use of which has a direct and significant impact on coastal water; and  
(ii) that is shown by written scientific evidence to be significantly more productive than adjacent habitat;  
or  
(C) identified as state game refuges, state game sanctuaries, state range areas, or fish and game critical habitat areas under AS 16.20; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)

**Local knowledge** has the same meaning given in State law except that “generally accepted by the local community” is that body of knowledge that is reflected in local plans, studies, policies and standards.

**11 AAC 114.990. Definitions.** (22) **"local knowledge"** means a body of knowledge or information about the coastal environment or the human use of that environment, including information passed down through generations, if that information is  
(A) derived from experience and observations; and  
(B) generally accepted by the local community; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)

**Maintain** means to provide for continuation of current conditions and functions.

**Mariculture** is the captive cultivation of plants and animals in marine and estuarine waters for human consumption.

**Mean High Water** has the same meaning as in State law.

**11 AAC 53.900 (14) “mean high water”** means the tidal datum plane of the average of all the high tides, as would be established by the National Geodetic Survey, at any place subject to tidal influence; (Eff. 3/27/80, Register 73; am 7/5/2001, Register 159)

**Mean Higher High Water** is the average of all the daily higher high water recorded over a 19-year period or a computed equivalent period. It is usually associated with a tide exhibiting mixed characteristics.

**Mean Low Water** has the same meaning as in State law.

**11 AAC 53.900 (16) “mean low water”** means the tidal datum plane of the average of all the low tides, as would be established by the National Geodetic Survey, at any place subject to tidal influence; (Eff. 3/27/80, Register 73; am 7/5/2001, Register 159)



**Mean Lower Low Water** has the same meaning as in State law.

*11 AAC 53.900 (17) "mean lower low water" means the tidal datum plane of the average of the lower of the two low waters of each day, as would be established by the National Geodetic Survey, at any place subject to tidal influence; (Eff. 3/27/80, Register 73; am 7/5/2001, Register 159)*

**Minimize** has the same meaning as in State law (see Avoid, Minimize and Mitigate).

**Mitigate** has the same meaning as in State law (see Avoid, minimize and Mitigate).

**Natural Hazards** has the same meaning as in State law.

*11 AAC 112.990. Definitions. (15) "natural hazards" (A) means the following natural processes or adverse conditions that present a threat to life or property in the coastal area: flooding, earthquakes, active faults, tsunamis, landslides, volcanoes, storm surges, ice formations, snow avalanches, erosion, and beach processes;  
(B) includes other natural processes or adverse conditions designated by the department or by a district in a district plan; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)*

**One Hundred Year Flood** is a flood of a magnitude, which can be expected to occur on an average of once every 100 years. It is possible for this size flood to occur during any year, and possible in successive years. It would have a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any year. Statistical analysis of available stream flow or storm records, or analysis of rainfall or runoff characteristics of the watershed, or topography and storm characteristics are used to determine the extent and depth of the 100-year flood.

**OPMP** is the Office of Project Management and Permitting with the Department of Natural Resources.

**Ordinary high water** has the same meaning as in State law.

*11 AAC 53.900 (23) "Ordinary high water" means the mark along the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of non-tidal water are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to leave a natural line impressed on the bank or shore and indicated by erosion, shelving, changes in soil characteristics, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or other distinctive physical characteristics. ; (Eff. 3/27/80, Register 73; am 7/5/2001, Register 159)*

**Practicable** has the same meaning as in State law.

*11 AAC 112.990. Definitions. (18) "practicable" means feasible in light of overall project purposes after considering cost, existing technology, and logistics of compliance with the standard; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)*

**Proper and improper uses** are the can-do and can't-do uses for the area.

**Public need** has the same meaning as in State law except that “documented” includes those needs expressed in locally adopted plans, studies, policies and standards.

*11 AAC 114.990 (35) "public need" means a documented need of the general public and not that of a private person; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)*

**Resource agency** has the same meaning as in State law.

*Sec. 46.39.010. (2) "resource agency" means  
(A) the Department of Environmental Conservation;  
(B) the Department of Fish and Game; or  
(C) the Department of Natural Resources.*

**Saltwater wetlands** has the same meaning as in State law. (see also “wetlands”)

*11 AAC 112.990. Definitions. (25) "saltwater wetlands" means those coastal areas along sheltered shorelines characterized by halophilic hydrophytes and macroalgae extending from extreme low tide to an area above extreme high tide that is influenced by sea spray or tidally induced water table changes; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)*

**Shall** means mandatory; it requires a course of action or set of conditions to be achieved.

**Should** states intent for a course of action or set of conditions to be achieved. This implies that case-specific discretion may be applied for achieving the intent of the action.

**Significant adverse impact** means an impact as indicated in state law by “direct and significant impact”.

**Subject uses** is a description of the land and water uses and activities which are subject to the district plan.

**Subsidence** is a lowering in elevation of ground surface due to underground geologic or hydrologic change. It can be a common occurrence in areas susceptible to seismic activity and where excessive water table depletion occurs.

**Subsistence Use Areas** are coastal habitat areas, used traditionally or occasionally in response to seasonal or cyclic resource abundance, where subsistence harvests of fish, wildlife, and other biological resources are conducted.

**Subsistence uses** has the same meaning as in State law.

*AS 16.05.940 (33) "subsistence uses" means the noncommercial, customary and traditional uses of wild, renewable resources by a resident domiciled in a rural area of the state for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation, for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible by-products of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption, and for the customary trade, barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; in this paragraph, "family" means persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, and a person living in the household on a permanent basis; (Eff. ///; Register )*

**Surface Waters** include streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, and contiguous open water wetlands.

**Tsunami** is a great sea wave produced by submarine earth movements or volcanic eruption.

**Uses of state concern** has the meaning as in State law.

*AS 46.40.210 (12) "uses of state concern" means those land and water uses that would significantly affect the long-term public interest; "uses of state concern" include*  
*(A) uses of national interest, including the use of resources for the siting of ports and major facilities that contribute to meeting national energy needs, construction and maintenance of navigational facilities and systems, resource development of federal land, and national defense and related security facilities that are dependent upon coastal locations;*  
*(B) uses of more than local concern, including those land and water uses that confer significant environmental, social, cultural, or economic benefits or burdens beyond a single coastal resource district;*  
*(C) the siting of major energy facilities, activities pursuant to a state or federal oil and gas lease, or large-scale industrial or commercial development activities that are dependent on a coastal location and that, because of their magnitude or the magnitude of their effect on the economy of the state or the surrounding area, are reasonably likely to present issues of more than local significance;*  
*(D) facilities serving statewide or interregional transportation and communication needs; and*  
*(E) uses in areas established as state parks or recreational areas under AS 41.21 or as state game refuges, game sanctuaries, or critical habitat areas under AS 16.20.*

**Water-Dependent** has the same meaning as in State law.

*11 AAC 112.990. Definitions. (31) "water-dependent" means a use or activity that can be carried out only on, in, or adjacent to a water body because the use requires access to the water body;*  
*(32) "water-related" means a use or activity that is not directly dependent upon access to a water body, but which provides goods or services that are directly associated with water-dependence and which, if not located adjacent to a water body, would result in a public loss of quality in the goods or services offered; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)*

**Waterfront** means the area along the coastline between mean higher high water and mean high sea level.

**Water-Related** has the same meaning in State law.

**Wetlands** has the same meaning as in State law.

*11 AAC 112.990. Definitions. (33) "wetlands" means saltwater wetlands and those freshwater wetlands that have a direct drainage to coastal waters; (Eff. 7/1/2004, Register 170; am 10/29/2004, Register 172)*